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TODAY IN Arab news

Syrian pullout
U.S. Secretary of State says he has been personally assured by the foreign minister of Syria that Syrian troops will be withdrawn from Lebanon when Israeli troops leave. — Page 3

U.S. request for hijacker
The United States is seeking extradition of a hijacker who diverted a commuter plane from Texas to Mexico, an American Embassy spokesman in Mexico says. — Page 4

Spot oil trading
International oil trading was virtually at a standstill in anticipation that Britain will cut its crude price Friday by between \$3 and \$3.50 a barrel. — Page 5

Islam in perspective
Today's commentary says one of the many lessons the fate that befell the unbelievers during Prophet Noah's period holds out for later generations is that it is Allah's will which ultimately prevails over everything else. — Page 7

Seeds shocked
Fancied Mats Wilander and Steve Denton were second round casualties in the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships at Memphis. Wilander fell to Fritz Buehling, while Denton was surprised by Mike DePalmer. — Page 9

Bushfires raging
Rescue workers pulled more charred bodies from burned-out homes and cars as devastating bushfires continued to rage through southern Australia. The death toll rises to 69. — Page 12

Cheysson spells out missile stand

MOSCOW, Feb. 17 (AP) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, here on a two-day official visit, Thursday expressed French support for the Geneva talks on reducing European armaments but reiterated that France would retain its own nuclear deterrent.

Speaking at a lunch given for him by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Cheysson said that peace was maintained by a balance of forces and that was why "the French government supports the efforts being made in the Geneva negotiations between the United States and the USSR."

Expressing the hope that the talks would be successful, Cheysson added: "But it is impossible to accept, given this, that the security of a country, my own, would be endangered." He said, that was why the French nuclear force "is and will remain independent" and could not be taken into account at the Geneva negotiations "by two over-armed superpowers."

In his speech on the basis for a "more useful and constructive" dialogue with the Soviet Union, Cheysson turned to Afghanistan where, he said, "a political settlement in line with right and reason would have a very great effect on the situation, not only in the region, but throughout the world."

On international relations, particularly in Europe, the French minister declared: "How could we not hope that the aspirations of all peoples, notably the Polish people attached by so many ties to France, may find a more free and legitimate expression?"

Turning to bilateral trade, Cheysson said it gave rise to "concern and dissatisfaction" with France suffering an 8.5 billion franc (about \$1.2 billion) deficit in 1982. This, he pointed out, represented 10 percent of France's total deficit although trade with the Soviet Union represented only three percent of France's global exchanges.

Cheysson and Gromyko started their talks Thursday morning, discussing the Middle East after visits by Cheysson to Amman, Baghdad and Damascus.

5 skulls found in 'house of horror'

LONDON, Feb. 17 (AP) — Police searching for mass-murder victims in the back yard of a "house of horror" Thursday reported their most significant find yet: Pieces of at least five skulls.

The remains were unearthed Wednesday afternoon at the house in north London's Clackwood district, a spokesman at Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, said.

Authorities have said that as many as 17 persons, most of them young drifters, may have been killed by the murderer over an eight-year period.

The police spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said the skulls were found in the crushed together were found buried along

Ice Age skeletons found near Texas

WACO, Texas, Feb. 17 (AP) — Two 10,000-year-old human skeletons buried with an array of artifacts near this central Texas city represent "a national treasure" unequalled in the Western hemisphere, a Baylor University archaeologist has said.

Meanwhile, a university spokeswoman reported that the find, first disclosed last week, actually was made 13 years ago and kept secret until archaeologists finished their work.

The skeletons of an Ice Age man and a child about 12 to 14 years old were found buried side by side, knees drawn to their chests, in a cave about 20 miles (32 kms) northwest of Waco on private property on the banks of the Brazos River.

Stone tools, ornaments and food were found buried with them.

"These burial artifacts interred with the two individuals 10,000 years ago provide science's first systematic view of Ice Age man's ideological or religious patterns," said university archaeologist John W. Fox. He called the site "a national treasure."

Woman kept locked up for 45 years

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Feb. 17 — A mentally ill 73-year-old woman was locked up for nearly 45 years by her sister in this tiny Sardinian village, reliable sources reported here.

The elderly woman, who was discovered when police received an anonymous letter, was reported to be extremely filthy and in poor health. She was immediately hospitalized, while her sister, a retired schoolteacher, was taken in for questioning.

After undergoing several years of psychiatric treatment, Gesuina Caria was locked up by her sister in 1938 without the neighbors ever realizing she was there.

Soviets make new N-ban proposal

GENEVA, Feb. 17 (R) — The Soviet Union, long opposed to outside inspectors checking its compliance with arms agreements, Thursday proposed a system of on-site inspections for a future treaty banning all nuclear testing.

Soviet Ambassador Viktor Issraelyan told the 40-nation committee on disarmament that states signing the treaty could demand on-site inspections if they suspected violations of the ban and complain to the United Nations Security Council if their requests were not granted.

If the treaty was accepted each state would undertake "to cooperate in carrying out any inspection which the Security Council may initiate," he told the U.N.-affiliated body, which has been discussing a total test ban since a 1963 treaty banned all but underground tests.

Western diplomats said the idea seemed linked to Moscow's agreement last week to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspect its peaceful nuclear facilities, its first concession to the strict monitoring favored by Western states.

But U.S. delegate Louis Fields who last week proposed regular on-site checks for a chemical weapons ban, said the U.S. would have to study the plan for any new elements. It seemed to stop short of guaranteed inspections, he said.

U.S. conservatives successfully opposed the 1979 SALT-II Treaty limiting U.S. and Soviet strategic arms because they said it could not be properly monitored. Since then, the Reagan administration has insisted on stringent checks against cheating on treaties, including on-site inspections on demand.

Israel, an "indirectly criticized the United States for stressing strict monitoring, saying the verification issue was 'intentionally used as a pretext for thwarting agreements.'"

He added: "We are no less interested in verification than other states and will not accept an agreement on disarmament which would not give us due confidence."

"At the same time, the Soviet Union has never and will not put forward the verification problem as a brake in the way of achieving agreements on arms limitation."

He added that the United States was not

Renew armed struggle to achieve aims--Habash

ALGIERS, Feb. 17 (Agencies) — Palestinian hardline leader George Habash Thursday pressed for both a renewal of armed struggle, at a time when Israeli troops are scattered through Lebanon, and a tough political response to President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the major groups inside the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization, told newsmen here that "only an intensification of armed struggle can reinforce Palestinian political cohesion."

The PLO, he said, should "step up military action" against the Israelis to "renew confidence" in the PLO amid the peoples of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip territories.

The Palestinians, he added "must take advantage of this golden opportunity when Israeli troops are scattered through Lebanon to set out a joint strategy with our Lebanese allies."

Stressing that the Palestine National Council, currently meeting here, should define a "clear policy" on the occupied territories, he called for a "political response" to both the Reagan plan and "all initiatives that drained the Palestinian revolution of all meaning."

Since the Palestinians had evacuated Beirut, he added, they had been blasted by a series of "political bombshells geared to breaking up our ranks and striking a decisive blow against our revolution." He warned Palestinians to "close ranks" to guard against "the dismembering of the PLO."

Meanwhile, the speaker of the 400-member PNC or parliament, Khaled Al-Mur, said the speaker of the 400-member PNC or parliament, Khaled Al-Mur, said

Peace prospects dim, Iraq says

ANKARA, Feb. 17 (AP) — No prospect for peace appears on the horizon in the two-and-a-half year old Iran-Iraq war, visiting Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan said Thursday.

Ramadan, here on a three-day official visit for talks on bilateral economic relations and regional problems, said Iraq wanted peace and would support and welcome any initiatives toward this goal.

"We have no specific proposals and we do not know at this stage how peace can be achieved. We want to realize peace through negotiations, including the delineation of our border (with Iran), not by one side imposing conditions on the other," Ramadan responded when asked to comment on Iranian demands to end the war.

Iran has asked for war reparations of \$150 billion. Iran has also vowed to fight on until Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein is toppled.

Ramadan charged that the United States was indirectly encouraging the continuation of the stalemate war, by taking no steps in a search for peace. "If superpowers make no effort for peace, it means they are encouraging war," Ramadan told reporters. He also charged that American manufactured weapons were reaching Iran through third parties, mainly via Israel.

Beirut opposes Israeli demand

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But Lebanon reiterated its opposition to Israeli demands for bases in the south aimed at preventing the return of Palestinian commandos to the border area.

Negotiators from Israel, Lebanon, and the United States met in a seaside hotel for a half-hour plenary session before breaking up into subcommittees. Avi Pazner, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, told reporters that chief Israeli negotiator David Kinchev applauded the deployment this week of regular Lebanese Army troops in East Beirut in place of Phalangist militia. "We support the return of Lebanese sovereignty in all parts of Lebanon," Pazner said.

Pazner played down an incident Wednesday in which an Israeli Army patrol broke through a Lebanese Army checkpoint outside Beirut. Israeli military action was not aimed against Lebanese authorities but against Palestinian infiltrators, he said.

He said Israel emphasized that the wider deployment of Israeli-backed Lebanese Christian forces under Major Saad Haddad in South Lebanon this week was not aimed at exerting pressure on the negotiations.

"The Haddad forces have an important role to play in Israeli security," he said. A Lebanese spokesman said chief negotiator Antoine Fattal restated Beirut's opposition to the presence of Israeli early warning stations in South Lebanon and the removal of United Nations and multinational peace-keeping forces from Lebanon.

Israel has demanded it be allowed to establish three bases in the south as part of a 45-kilometer (28-mile)-wide security zone.

Troop withdrawal from Europe urged

VIENNA, Feb. 17 (R) — The Warsaw Pact Thursday formally proposed that the Soviet Union and the United States begin pulling out troops and arms from central Europe this year without waiting for conclusion of an overall East-West agreement on force reductions.

Soviet delegation head Valerian Mikhaïlov tabled the proposal in what a Warsaw Pact spokesman described as "a fundamentally new and inherently simple approach" at the 330th round of 19-state negotiations in Vienna between the Communist alliance and NATO.

It was based on proposals adopted by Warsaw Pact leaders in summit session in Prague last month, and was aimed at overcoming a nine-year deadlock in the Vienna talks, Mikhaïlov said.

Initial reductions by Moscow and Washington on the basis of "mutual example" would give evidence of the superpowers' intention to begin lowering the level of military confrontation in Europe, he added.

The Warsaw Pact spokesman declined to

Vacuum fat away through aesthetic surgery

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, Feb. 17 (R) — With a thousand dieting books crowding the shelves and keep-fit classes doing booming business, plastic surgeons have come up with a new way to get rid of unsightly bulges. Vacuum the fat away.

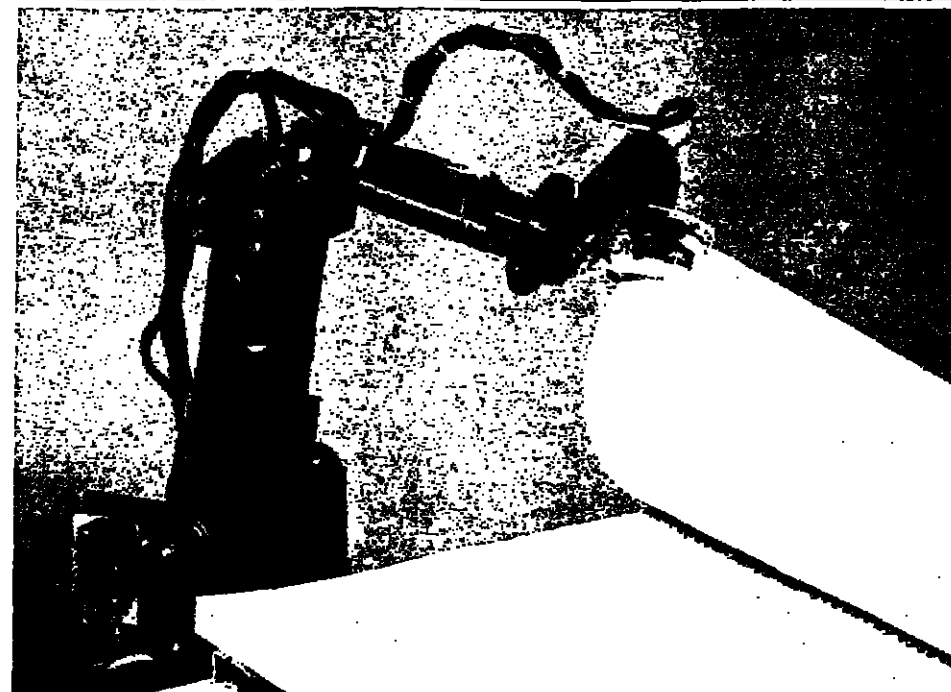
Some doctors call it body sculpting and others call it suction lipectomy — but the technique allows surgeons to literally vacuum away as much as six pounds (2.7 kg) of fat deposits from the body.

"It's the hottest new thing in aesthetic surgery," said Harvey Baumann, a plastic surgeon in Providence and one of about 100 doctors across the country who have begun performing the operation.

Although Dr. Baumann and other doctors stress that the technique is not a substitute for dieting, it does get rid of the so-called "love handles" — pot bellies and collections of fat that some successful dieters seem unable to lose. "The operation is essentially safe and essentially effective," said Simon Fredricks, professor of plastic surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

But Dr. Fredricks, who chaired a panel that investigated the technique for the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, says adamantly: "It is not a treatment for obesity under any circumstances. It is for young people who have genetic fat deposits."

He admits, however, that many plastic surgeons are concerned that



ROBOT TURNS A PAGE: Japanese have built a robot that can gently, yet accurately, turn a page. Called a "Paging Robot", it separates pages as do human fingers and then opens a page to a given arms length. These type of robots will be used in conjunction with computers that recognize words and deliver what is read in tones resembling the human voice. Such robots have been developed that are said to be capable of reading a newspaper with an accuracy of 99.5%.

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He said Israel emphasized that the wider deployment of Israeli-backed Lebanese Christian forces under Major Saad Haddad in South Lebanon this week was not aimed at exerting pressure on the negotiations.

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Project on hotel's staff housing units finalized

Riyadh Bureau

RIYADH, Feb. 17 — The Central Department for Governmental Purchases (CDGP), the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, and the supply management development project (CENPRO) of the United States-Saudi Arabian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation have completed a special project in coordination with the director general of hotels and conference halls, Riyadh Intercontinental Hotel, according to Ray J. Viola, CENPRO project director.

He told *Arab News* that the project was to determine the requirements and develop detailed item purchase descriptions (IPDs) for the hotel's employee housing facilities. The IPDs are to be used in the competitive procurement process to completely furnish 208 housing units and one general facilities building which will house about 500 hotel employees, Viola said.

The IPDs, he pointed out, were developed for 211 different items in both Arabic and English. The items include a complete line of household furniture and furnishings, appliances, food preparation and serving equipment, cleaning, air conditioning, recreational and athletic equipment, maintenance tool kits and passenger vehicles. All IPDs were written emphasizing the buy Saudi program, Viola said, adding, "this will provide a greater opportunity for Saudi Arabian businessmen and manufacturers within the Kingdom to compete in this procurement."

CDGP and CENPRO specialists, according to Viola, worked hand in hand with the hotel's officials on this project, symbolizing the continued cooperation between the Saudi Arabian government and the U.S. Joint Commission, he added.

Bilateral ties discussed during Swiss MP's visit

RIYADH, Feb. 17 (SPA) — A visiting Swiss parliamentarian, Peter Sagar, has called on Abdul Rahman Al Mansouri, the Kingdom's foreign undersecretary for political affairs.

Sagar, who also chairs the Central Demo-

Arab sports, youth experts begin meeting Saturday

RIYADH, Feb. 17 (SPA) — Sports and youth experts from Arab Gulf states will hold a three-day meeting here Saturday to prepare for an Arab Gulf sports and youth ministers conference due to be held here Tuesday.



FIRE FIGHTERS

Fire destroys Bab Makkah market area

JEDDAH, Feb. 17 — A major fire that lasted for more than two hours Tuesday completely ravaged the Bab Makkah Souk (market), *Al-Madinah* reported Thursday. The fire started on the second floor of a popular coffee shop surrounded by a large number of shops. The fire soon reached a series of shoe shops and warehouses beneath the cafe, causing heavy damage in one warehouse in particular. Fire fighters struggled to get to the scene, because of the narrowness of the lanes.

The fact that shops were next to each other and contained highly flammable material, such as gas bottles in some cafes and restaurants, plastic shoes and materials added to the severity of the situation. More than 15 shops were destroyed before several civil defense teams managed to contain the blaze.

A number of houses were also burned and fire fighters, many of whom were suffocating from heavy smoke, emptied neighboring buildings. An inquiry has been opened into the cause of the fire.

PLO official sees PNC session in Algiers as most crucial ever

RIYADH, Feb. 17 — A Palestinian leader has described the Palestine National Council (PNC) session being held in Algiers as one of the most important gatherings of its kind.

Dr. Ahmad Sidki Al-Dajani, a PLO Executive Committee member, said in an interview with the weekly magazine *Al-Yamama* the meeting which began Monday had important and pressing items on its agenda. He noted that the session came after the Beirut battle and said the international balance in the Middle East required a clear Arab stand to face dangers threatening the region.

"After the Beirut battle there emerged several peace initiatives requiring certain

action, and the PNC should clearly map out the future course to be followed," he said. "Topics to be discussed by the PNC included joint Arab action within the framework of the Fez summit, Palestinian relations with neighboring Arab countries and Palestinian moves at the international level," Dajani added.

He said the PLO was trying, jointly with the rest of Arab states, to ensure that other peace initiatives adopt the Arab peace plan. Declaring that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative did not meet the aspirations of the Palestinian people although it contained "certain positive points," Dajani said the PLO has certain observations to make on the American initiative.

The PLO's aim was to persuade the international community to adopt the Arab peace plan, he noted.

Dajani stressed that the PLO was determined to exercise its right to resist, a right guaranteed by all international charters. "Palestinian resistance will continue as long as occupation exists," he affirmed.

Turning to Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations, he said these had resulted in agreement in principle on a form of confederation but what was required now was making additional efforts so that the move would become a reality.

Microwave network inauguration on Monday

DOHA, Feb. 17 (SPA) — Qatar's Minister of Communications and Transport will Monday inaugurate a 40-million Qatari riyal microwave network linking Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The occasion will be part of Qatar's ceremonies marking the 11th anniversary of Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani's coming to power.

Among other things, the network will facilitate television transmission to Saudi Arabia.

The Kingdom has completed certain important telecommunications projects, which include upgrading 12 MHz to 60 MHz, the east-west pipeline and construction of telephone telex system of Yanbu Industrial city. The long distance telecommunications network, 300 microwave stations spread along a 10,000 kilometer distance and 200 kilometers of coaxial cable 12 MHz and 60 MHz from Taif to Dammam and Dammam to Khafji at the border of Kuwait are some of the achievements.

13 Arab states give SR6.15b to 238 projects

RIYADH, Feb. 17 — Thirteen Arab countries contributed SR6.15 billion to 238 private industrial projects in Saudi Arabia until the third quarter of 1982, according to statistics drawn up by the Ministry of Industry and Electricity, *Al-Riyadh* reported.

The projects, in which Arab private capital is involved, account for 11.34 percent of total financing of authorized projects in Saudi Arabia in which SR54.21 billion are invested, without counting basic industry projects.

The plants covered by that financing constitute 8.87 percent of the 2,694 licensed plants in Saudi Arabia.

Saudia declares 1983 as 'year of challenge'

TAIF, Feb. 17 — 1983 will be "the Year of Challenge," it was proclaimed Tuesday at the end of a Saudia Airlines (Saudia) marketing conference at Al-Hada Sheraton Hotel here, *Okaz* reported.

According to the final declaration, the challenge will be against three targets: improvement of services, boosting of revenue and less expenditure. The opening session was presided over by Saudia General Manager Capt. Ahmad Matar.

During a press conference Capt. Matar said that last year's target was fulfilled: Saudia received a fresh impetus, as last year was "the Year of the Thrust."

Services were improved and the level of efficiency at domestic stations and overseas posts was greatly enhanced, he explained. The company also managed to handle complete maintenance of its Tristar planes in the Kingdom.

Deal signed for handicapped child welfare building

RIYADH, Feb. 17 (SPA) — Dr. Ghazi Alghosabi, the minister of industry and electricity, acting health minister and head of the Handicapped Child Welfare Society, has signed an SR80 million contract with a national firm to build the society's headquarters. The contract will be carried out over a 24-month period.

Work will start next week on the project which will cover a 48,240 square meter area of which the buildings will occupy 16,000 square meters.

Dr. Alghosabi said that the center will give full board for 60 children. He added that every child would need the care of five persons.

Saudi Arabian nationals will be trained at the society to gradually takeover from the foreign staff. Part of the project will be covered by the support medical sciences faculty and the faculty of medicine.

Trade talks under way with Italian delegation

DAMMAM, Feb. 17 (SPA) — A visiting Italian trade delegation has met with members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Eastern Province with the aim of promoting furniture exports from Italy.

The delegation, led by Pesaro Chamber of Commerce President Giorgio Tombari, discussed obstacles facing the export of Italian furniture to the Kingdom.

The team, which arrived in Saudi Arabia Friday for a 10-day visit, will also be going to Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait.

N. Yemen minister lauds Saudi assistance

RIYADH, Feb. 17 (SPA) — North Yemeni Foreign Minister Ali Lutfi Al-Thor has praised Saudi Arabian aid to help his country overcome the tragedy it faced as a result of the Dhamar earthquake in December. He spoke to reporters on arrival here Tuesday.

The minister said his visit was part of a tour of several countries in the region aimed at explaining efforts made to deal with the catastrophe.

He also praised the sympathy expressed by leaders of Gulf states he had already met with.



MICROWAVE EXPLANATION: Details about the Saudi Arabian intra-Kingdom microwave system, which is being operated and maintained by the Saudi Arabia Telecommunication Company (SARTELCO), being explained to Bahraini Telecommunication Minister Ibrahim Hussaid and Omani Communication Minister Nour Ahmed Abdul Rehman and Dr. Al Maayied, chairman of the Middle East Communications and Electronics Show & Conference (MECOM '83), by SARTELCO's staff during their visit to the company's stand at the MECOM '83 held in Bahrain recently.

On Bahrain causeway

Kingdom seeks excavations

JEDDAH, Feb. 17 (SPA) — Saudi Arabia will submit proposals at a meeting in Bahrain soon on carrying out excavations on the Saudi Arabian side of the causeway connecting the Kingdom with Bahrain. The proposals also call for making an archaeological survey of the pilgrimage highway running through Jordanian territory and Zobeidah Road in Iraq.

The proposals are considered of great

importance and a follow-up of a survey made by the Saudi Department of Archaeology and museums of parts of the road located in Saudi territory.

Delegates from the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), UNESCO and the Regional Center for the Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage in the Arab world will also take part in the meeting.



DESERT TENT: Hyatt Regency, Jeddah, is the first hotel in the city to introduce "Desert Tent", reflecting the tradition and culture of the Kingdom. The tent is located in the main lobby, decorated with an Arabian touch.

Hyatt Regency's 'Desert Tent' serves freshly brewed Arabian coffee

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Feb. 17 — Hyatt Regency, Jeddah, has become the first hotel in the Kingdom to introduce "Desert Tent," an attractively decorated shop serving freshly brewed Arabian coffee, according to Hyatt's Middle East Public Relations Director Saleh A. Itani.

The hotel has introduced this novelty in keeping with the global reputation of Ara-

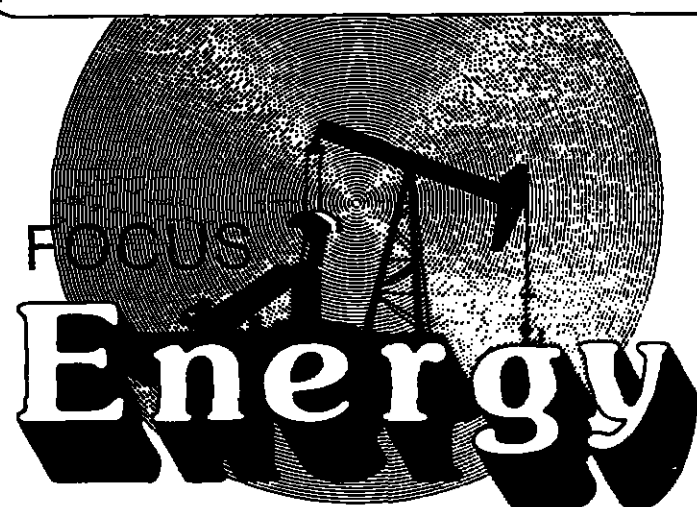
bian hospitality, especially exemplified by Saudi Arabia, he said.

Located in the main lobby, the attractively decorated tent features sheepskin alcoves, simple furniture and the indigenous hooka pipe.

"The tent was decorated by one of our Tunisian staff members, reflecting the tradition and culture of the Kingdom. It will be a landmark in Hyatt Regency hotels and will be a permanent feature," Itani said.

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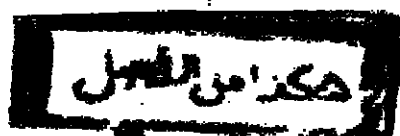
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Syria ready to pullout -- Shultz

SAM-5 threat to Israel ruled out

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said he has been personally assured by the foreign minister of Syria that Syrian troops will be withdrawn from Lebanon when Israeli troops leave.

In an appearance before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Shultz also disclosed Wednesday that Soviet troops are in Syria to operate SAM-5 long-range anti-aircraft missiles which Moscow has recently supplied to Syria.

While U.S. intelligence officials had anticipated a Soviet presence to operate the missiles, Shultz offered the first public confirmation this has happened. He called it "an

'My heart bleeds for Lebanon'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said he was sure Lebanese felt remorse over the Palestinian massacre even if they have not completed an inquiry.

"Poor Lebanon," Shultz said when Republican Representative Henry Hyde deplored that Lebanese officials did not appear to be investigating the Christian militia massacre of Palestinians in Beirut last September.

"Lebanon has been destroyed, almost, by problems that did not originate in Lebanon," Shultz said. "My heart bleeds for Lebanon. I think Lebanon, of all countries in this world, deserves all the help and support it can get because of our inability to come to grips adequately with these other problems."

unwelcome development to put it mildly."

But he said the missiles, which have a range of up to 305 kilometers, don't seriously threaten Israel. "Right now, it's hard to argue that there is somebody around there (the Middle East) that really can threaten Israeli security."

Shultz also said there is "a reasonable possibility" that Jordan's King Hussein will agree to talk peace with Israel, saying this was the "key at this point" for achieving a lasting Arab-Israeli peace.

"We have had extensive discussions with King Hussein and we think there is a reasonable possibility that he will want to enter this process," Shultz said.

He said Reagan was trying to reinvigorate the Camp David peace process with his initiative and that they were achieving some success in convincing Arabs that they intended to address the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

"The Arab world in general looked upon this (Camp David) process as one that would not result in real attention to the Palestinian issues, so they've been very leery of the Camp David process," Shultz said. "They felt that in the end it would not result in what they

would regard as giving the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza. "Now we have to create conditions where they think that it is possible to fulfill those legitimate rights and aspirations."

Shultz appeared before the committee to testify on the Reagan administration's request for \$14.5 billion in foreign economic and military aid for fiscal 1984.

He also said U.S. policy in Lebanon is "not anti-Israeli; it's pro-getting-the-matter-settled." He said the United States continues to support "our friend Israel's efforts to secure its security."

Shultz and other administration officials have said previously they expected Syrian and Palestinian forces to withdraw from Lebanon when there was an agreement for a withdrawal of Israeli forces. He said the PLO also has indicated it will withdraw when the Syrians do.

Shultz said there is no new target date for a withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops from Lebanon, but that Lebanon's problems grow the longer the foreign armies remain. He said Saudi Arabia is delaying money to help Lebanon rebuild from the war until a withdrawal is arranged.

Shultz was asked why the administration said Syria was committed to leaving Lebanon once Israeli troops leave. "The statement that you quoted has been made to me by the foreign minister of Syria, but more recently, of course, that is what they have told the government of Lebanon. Now, at this point, they can just make the statement. You don't have any way of testing it out until you have a plan for the withdrawal of Israel."

He said any assurances the PLO forces would leave Lebanon had been received indirectly by the United States through Lebanese or other intermediaries.

Shultz was asked why the United States was pressuring Israel to withdraw from Lebanon first. "Naturally the concerns of Israel about her security, which prompted their movement into Lebanon in the first place, are matters that have to be taken, and taken carefully and seriously," he said.

"Attention is being paid to that (Israel's security concerns) because that's the process that's before us right now," he said. "I believe that most people involved are impatient, for good reason... I'm sure the Israelis feel it, we feel it, the Lebanese feel it, and others in the region do. So this expression of impatience is universally felt. It's not anti-Israel, it's pro-getting-the-matter-settled."

Shultz was asked why a shipment to Israel of F-16 jet fighters, postponed because of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, was still being held up. He said President Reagan was reviewing the matter. Shultz denied that the Reagan administration was withholding the planes as a lever to get Israel to accept U.S. policy despite Reagan administration assur-

U.N. conference on Palestine set

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 17 (AP) — A U.N. conference on Palestine will take place next Aug. 16-27 at headquarters of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris. One of the planners predicted Wednesday that it would be the largest gathering on the Palestine issue ever held.

Hans Janitschek of Austria told a reporter, "we expect... at least 150 states." Janitschek said the Palestine Liberation Organization was invited and he "would not be surprised" if PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat turned up.

Janitschek is senior adviser to Mrs. Lucile Mair of Jamaica, secretary-general of the conference, who is also undersecretary-general in the U.N. secretariat itself. That makes her the highest ranking woman in the secretariat.

The formal title of the occasion is the International Conference on the Question of Palestine. The U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1981, decided to convene a conference under that title "not later than 1984."

But in view of Israel's June 1982 invasion of Lebanon, and at the urging of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau, the U.N. Palestinian Rights Committee recommended last July 27 that the conference be held a year earlier, from Aug. 16-27, 1983.

The assembly, which had designated the Palestinian rights committee as the conference preparatory committee, endorsed the recommendation last Dec. 10 by a vote of 123-2 — Israel and the United States — with 17 abstentions.

Afghan-held soldiers flay Soviet actions

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (AP) — Several Soviet soldiers held by Afghan freedom fighters were quoted as telling American visitors that they oppose Soviet actions in Afghanistan and want to come to the United States.

The visitors were a news crew from the American ABC television network and a representative of Freedom House, a New York-based political rights organization that concentrates on Communist bloc countries. A report on the trip was broadcast by the network Thursday.

Freedom House said Ludmilla Thorne, the Soviet-born director of its Center for Appeals for Freedom, and the television crew entered Afghanistan for two days in early February and talked to seven prisoners at a camp near Kandahar. All had deserted from the army.

Four of the seven prisoners said they wanted to come to the United States, according to Ms. Thorne.

In a transcript released by ABC, Sgt. Greisha Suleymonov, 20, was quoted as saying, "I want to go, if it's possible, to America. Because in the Soviet Union, they'll put me away."



Shultz

ances that it would not use aid to pressure Israel.

He said the administration's basic concern was the Middle East peace process, but that it was concentrating on Israeli troops in Lebanon because they were "an inhibitor" to getting King Hussein into the talks — "the basic next step that needs to come about."

'Unseen killers' stalk war-torn Lebanon

BEIRUT, Feb. 17 (AP) — Almost daily, Lebanese newspapers list victims of the unseen killers — the mines, rockets, shells and cluster bombs left after eight years of warfare.

Police records show 41 persons have died and 53 were injured in accidental explosions of cluster bombs and mines since Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June.

The job of clearing the mines from the streets, vacant lots and rubble of war has fallen mainly to the Lebanese army and the multinational peacekeeping force made up of Italians, French, British and Americans. French and Italian troops in particular have the burden of defusing mines and clearing away lethal leftovers.

"I sincerely believe that several years from now we will still find bombs on the ground here because of earth movement and construction works," said Col. Jean Guertz, head of the French contingent's minesweeping team.

"People find bombs and don't know what to do with them so they throw them away along with their garbage," said a spokesman for the Italian contingent, Capt. Corrado Cantatore, 39, of Bari in southern Italy. Police say at least two garbage collectors have died in recent months tending piles of refuse containing unexploded ordnance.

A U.S. Marine was killed and four were injured last September by a cluster bomb found near Beirut International Airport, and two other peacekeepers lost legs in early February — a French soldier who stepped on a mine in downtown Beirut and an Italian who picked up a small, cylindrical cluster bomb.

No figures are available on how much ordnance has been found since the war ended last August, but Italian soldiers said they still find about 200 to 300 kilos a day.

The Italians collected 10 tons of discarded explosives last fall when they first arrived, said Rimaggio Dolce, 28, of Bousto Arstizio, head of the Italian ordnance team.

Since last September, Italian and French ordnance teams have exploded or removed more than 19,400 mines and other explosives in their areas of Beirut.

Of the more than 8,600 mines detonated by the Italians, Dolce said nearly 30 percent were made in the Soviet Union, 20 percent in the United States, 7 percent in Britain, 14 percent in France, 4 percent in Israel and 4 percent made by Palestinian commandos.



TIME FOR TEA: British peacekeeping force Commander Lt. Col. John Cochran (C) drinks Lebanese coffee as Lebanese Maj. Elie Ghamman (R) drinks English tea at the British headquarters in Beirut, during a friendly chat.

U.S. Marine spokesman Walt Deforest said that since September more than 3,500 cluster bombs, mortar rounds, artillery shells and other ordnance made in 19 different countries have been found near their zone around Beirut International Airport. Most has been blown up.

Guertz, 44, of Phalsbourg, France, said his team usually explodes the ordnance on the spot because the Lebanese government had not yet provided a special site. "We either melt the explosives inside or soak the shell in water until it can be taken away. The big aerial bombs we later use as umbrella stands," Guertz said.

As he spoke, sounds of explosions shook the war-damaged French headquarters in central Beirut near the Horserace Track, where French teams were still exploding land mines.

BRIEFS

CAIRO (AP) — Chad President Hissene Habre conferred with Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri in Khartoum Thursday, the Egyptian state-run Middle East News Agency said.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan has purchased 18 A-5 close-support fighter planes from China, it was officially announced here. The first six-plane squadron landed Wednesday at the Peshawar Air Base.

CAIRO (AP) — A U.S. congressional delegation led by U.S. Representative Neal Smith arrived Wednesday for a four-day stop which is part of an inspection trip in the Middle East, daily newspaper *Al-Ahram* said.

DOHA (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published here Thursday that there could be no stability in Lebanon unless all foreign forces withdrew from the country.

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's former senior negotiator in peace talks with Israel, Mustapha Khalil, has said the Jewish state's judicial inquiry into the Beirut massacres should

have recommended that the whole cabinet resign.

ANKARA (AFP) — The authorities Thursday lifted a ban against the publication of *Cumhuriyet*, a left-of-center daily shut down over three weeks ago for an article criticizing Turkey's military regime.

DHAKA (R) — Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa will arrive in Dhaka Friday for three-day visit at the invitation of the chief martial law administrator, Lt. Gen. Hussein Muhammad Ershad, officials announced.

NICOSIA (R) — Seven Cypriot National Guard soldiers were injured, one of them seriously, when an anti-tank missile exploded during military exercises, the Ministry of Interior and Defense said Thursday.

ALGIERS (AFP) — Gail Pressberg, a member of the Foundation for Middle East, Wednesday urged the U.S. administration to engage in "direct discussion" with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

In Nairobi OAU leaders meet today

NAIROBI, Feb. 17 (R) — Heads of state and ministers from 12 African nations meet for a day of talks here Friday to try to find a formula for convening the twice-abandoned summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The organization plunged into a crisis without precedent last year when it twice failed to raise a quorum for the annual session of heads of state in Tripoli, Libya.

The two issues which led to the summit impasse — disputes over Chad and the Polisario Western Sahara independence movement's controversial membership of the OAU — are expected to head the agenda.

African diplomatic sources said no new attempt would be made to re-convene the ill-fated 19th summit unless it was certain to be a success.

Kenya holds the current chairmanship of the OAU and of the 12-nation committee, which was set up in Tripoli in the final hours of the second attempt at a summit last November.

Other members of the committee are Tanzania, Zambia, Mali, Congo, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Angola and Lesotho. Kenyan officials said at least four heads of state, Sheshu Shagari of Nigeria, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo, were coming.

The OAU has been at a virtual standstill since the Polisario, which is fighting Moroccan control of the Western Sahara, became the OAU's 51st member in February 1982 by an administrative decision contested by Morocco and its supporters.

A boycott by member states protesting against the decision scuttled the first attempt to hold the OAU summit in August and underlined a rift between moderate and progressive states.

The second attempt failed when Libya opposed the seating of the Chad government of Hissene Habre, which ousted Libya's protégé, Goukouni Oueddei last June.

Pakistan spends \$ 500m per year on refugees

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 17 (AP) — Pakistan said Thursday it spends \$500 million a year to look after Afghan refugee population that now totals three million people.

That works out at 45 cents a day per man, woman and child, who has sought shelter in Pakistan since Soviet troops marched into Afghanistan more than three years ago.

Refugee commissioner Brig. Said Azhar told a newspaper interviewer that disbursements are made on a daily cash basis. Azhar also said there are 350 refugee camps in Pakistan, most of them located in North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan, bordering Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, President Gen. Zia ul-Haq ruled out early general elections when he announced Wednesday that only local council elections will be held in 1983, according to local press reports.

Elections for towns, cities, and rural district councils are planned for September 1983. The previous local elections were held in 1979. The final date of the polls would be announced later this month.

Zia also reiterated earlier statements that elections will be held on a non-party basis.

Dhaka inching toward normalcy

DHAKA, Feb. 17 (AP) — The army patrolled the streets of Dhaka and other cities as life began to return to normal following several days of anti-government riots. Authorities said Thursday it has closed down two more universities following anti-government student riots in which five persons were reportedly killed earlier in the week.

Late Wednesday the government of Lt. Gen. Hussein Muhammad Ershad announced it had arrested 19 opposition leaders, apparently in connection with riots. The announcement said Awami League President Hasina Wajed, daughter of late President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was arrested along with former Foreign Minister Kamal Hussein and members of the pro-Moscow Workers Party and National Awami Party. The Workers Party all had expressed sympathy with the students during the riots.

Hussein in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Feb. 17 (AP) — King Hussein of Jordan arrived Thursday on a one-day visit of "friendship" to discuss recent developments in the Middle East with President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romania has reportedly been active as a conduit for ideas and measures between Israelis and Arabs.

Hussein and Ceausescu were supposed to discuss ideas for a Palestinian state and possible talks between Jordan and Israel in the U.S.-sponsored peace process, said well-informed sources.

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From Mexico

America will seek hijacker extradition

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 17 (AP) — The United States will ask for the extradition of a hijacker who fought off three U.S. soldiers and diverted a commuter plane from Texas to Mexico, an American Embassy spokesman said.

"The State Department will seek his extradition under normal procedures," spokesman John Walsh said in a telephone interview.

The hijacker — identified previously as

Pilot belittles belly landing

MIAMI, Florida, Feb. 17 (AP) — The pilot who set his 727 jetliner down safely in a spark-flying belly landing after the landing gear jammed said Wednesday it was "not all that big a deal." But President Ronald Reagan called to praise him for a "remarkable" job.

Meanwhile, investigators began examining the plane to determine why the gear malfunctioned after takeoff Tuesday night.

"A belly landing is not all that big a deal," said Capt. Richard Curti, who landed the Eastern Airlines 727 carrying 74 persons here. "I don't want to sound mundane about it, but we were just doing the job."

Said passenger Frank Witko: "He set in down so smooth, it was even better than with the wheels."

Curti, 49, a 20-year Eastern veteran and a captain for 10 years, got a telephone call Wednesday from Reagan. "I just wanted to call you and congratulate you for what you did for all those passengers," Reagan said, adding that he saw the "remarkable landing" on television.

Spain terrorists held

BARCELONA, Feb. 17 (AP) — At least seven members of an international ultrarightist terrorist organization have been arrested here and in Valencia, the national news agency, EFE, reported Wednesday.

In Madrid, Interior Ministry spokesman Julio Fernandez confirmed that police were carrying out "important arrests" in the two cities.

Quoting "informed sources," the independent news agency Europa Press said the detainees, including Spanish, French and Italian nationals all part of an organization called "Black Plot or Connection" (Trama Negra) were connected with the August 1980 bombing of the Bologna railway station in which 84 persons died and the October 1980 bombing of a Paris synagogue which claimed four lives.

Hussein Shey Kholya, 37, a former Iranian Air Force pilot — surrendered in Nuevo Laredo and was flown here Tuesday after authorities guaranteed him safe conduct out of the country.

But a source in Mexico City, who talked on condition he not be identified, said there was no confirmation that Kholya is Iranian or a former air force pilot. "He could also be an American of Iranian descent," the source said.

Both the United States and Mexico are signers of The Hague convention on hijacking, which requires that countries arrest and surrender air pirates. The two countries also have a treaty permitting hijackers to remain under arrest in the other's country for up to 60 days.

Kholya had demanded to be flown to Cuba when he surrendered. But there was no indication that Cuban authorities would take him. Mexican authorities said they were consulting with "a number of countries" but did not list them.

"Meanwhile, he is being held here, at the Federal Security Administration," Interior Department spokesman Sergui Luis Chico said.

The Federal Security Administration is an inter-police task force that handles special government assignments which include handling hijackers.

Kholya hijacked the plane for five hours but his manner was so cool the 20 other people aboard remained calm, one of the three soldiers said.

"Everybody was pretty calm because he was pretty calm after a while," said U.S. Army Sgt. Baron Liggins, 24, one of those aboard during Tuesday's hijacking.

Liggins and 15 other passengers, two flight attendants and two pilots were freed unharmed about five hours later after the plane had been diverted to the airport at Nuevo Laredo.

Rio Airways flight 252 was seized Tuesday morning halfway through a one-hour flight to Dallas from Killeen, a central Texas army town.

After the hijacker was told the plane could not reach either Mexico City or Havana, he chose Nuevo Laredo. After the incident ended, Kholya was flown to Mexico City by Mexican authorities, and the passengers were flown back to Killeen. Officials guaranteed Kholya safe conduct out of the country.

A statement from Mexico's Interior Ministry identified Kholya as a former Air Force pilot and an Iranian activist who had opposed the late Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi.

The hijacker told Rio Airways chief pilot Michael McNeil he hijacked the plane because he wanted Americans to be aware of what was going on in Iran.



WELCOME: Schoolchildren were among 2,000 Bermudians and tourists who turned up at the crowded civil air terminal to greet Queen Elizabeth during the one-hour stopover in Hamilton recently.

Cayman islanders greet Queen Elizabeth

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands, Feb. 17 (AP) — More than 3,000 Cayman Islands residents turned out on Wednesday as Queen Elizabeth II, the first reigning British monarch ever to travel here, stepped off a Royal Air Force plane.

The queen was applauded after being greeted by governor Peter Lloyd, her representative in the Cayman Islands and the three-island group's highest government official.

The Cayman Islands, one of the smallest colonies in the British empire, lies about 400 miles south of Miami, Florida, between Cuba and Jamaica.

Queen Elizabeth, came to the islands of Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman, where 17,000 inhabitants live, to thank them personally for contributing more than \$1 million for Britain's

successful military campaign to oust Argentine invaders from the disputed Falklands.

The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, arrived here following a 50-minute flight from Jamaica, where the royal couple spent four days.

They will travel Thursday to Mexico for a five-day visit, followed by a 10-day trip to the U.S. west coast and four days on the Canadian west coast.

Ian Smith calls on government to resign

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Feb. 17 (AP) — Former white Rhodesian leader Ian D. Smith called on the black Socialist government to resign following the defense chief's refusal to answer legislators' questions about alleged atrocities committed against civilians in strife-torn Matabeleland.

"A good number of dissidents and their

collaborators have died, but I regret that I cannot give any figures at the present time," Minister of State for Defense Sydney Sekeremayi said in answer to questions in parliament about alleged massacres, looting and raping by government soldiers.

Former Prime Minister Smith, last white leader of the British colony of Rhodesia, announced in the executive National Assembly he would call on the government to resign next Wednesday.

Giving notice of his motion, Smith cited alleged human rights violations, abuses of the constitution, interference with the administration of justice, a "serious breakdown" in maintaining law and order and "incompetent" handling of the economy for his move.

Smith, 63, whose Republican Front Party holds half the 20 seats reserved for whites in the 100-member assembly, was jeered by Mugabe's legislators as he read through his motion.

Sekeremayi, questioned about alleged atrocities committed by the North Korean-trained fifth brigade in Matabeleland, said he could not comment on reports of murder, looting, rape, torture and abduction by soldiers.

Asked about a report by the American magazine, *Newsweek*, that 500 civilians had been slain by troops in central Matabeleland over three weeks the minister replied: *Newsweek* does not speak on behalf of the Zimbabwe government and if some people want to be entertained by that magazine they are free to do so.

Hart tosses hat in U.S. ring

DENVER, Feb. 17 (AP) — U.S. Sen. Gary Hart was to announce that he will seek the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1984 with a declaration that Americans face a choice between "national renewal and national decline."

"The next president must shape domestic policies that actually achieve progress — instead of perpetuating programs merely because there is a pressure group for them," Hart said in remarks prepared for delivery Thursday.

Hart, elected to the Senate from Colorado eight years ago, is the second Democrat behind Sen. Alan Cranston of California to formally announce his candidacy for the 1984 race.

At 45, he is the youngest of six Democrats likely to seek the nomination Spelling out his remedy for economic recovery, Hart called for restraining millions of American workers, retooling worn out U.S. factories and opening up world trade markets, all long-term solutions.

"We now face a stark choice between national renewal or national decline," Hart said in his speech, which he was to deliver from the steps of the Colorado state house.

But Hart offered no short-term proposals for lowering unemployment, which now

stands at 10.2 percent, or reducing interest rates.

One of the younger breed of pragmatic liberals who do not flinch from some of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's budget cuts, Hart said, "we can be tender-hearted if we are also tough-minded."

Reagan, Hart said, has given the country "a false choice between an inefficient government frozen in the ice of inefficient programs and an insensitive government which wastes only to the claims of money and privilege."

Since last summer, Hart has criss-crossed the country, building a political organization and raising \$225,000 for a campaign he admits is a long shot. "We have a long, difficult way ahead," he said.

Hart has first gained attention in political circles when he served as former Sen. George McGovern's presidential campaign manager 12 years ago. Hart was credited with building the political organization that propelled the liberal south Dakota senator from obscurity to the party's presidential nominee.

In the Senate, Hart has steered a centrist course, urging changes in defense policy. "The next president... must guarantee our defenses are the most effective, not the most expensive," Hart said.

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Draft deals with M.E. at nonaligned conference

NEW DELHI, Feb. 17 (AFP) — India has submitted what analysts view as two relatively moderate resolutions to the 96 countries and organizations invited to next month's nonaligned summit here.

A political draft deals with U.S. policies, the Middle East, the South African occupation of Namibia, the Soviet role in Afghanistan and the Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia, among other issues. It is critical of Britain for keeping the Falkland Islands, and of France for holding Mayotte.

An economic draft calls for improved North-South dialogue and increased aid to the Third World.

The nonaligned commissions will meet to discuss the drafts on March 1, and their work will be submitted to the foreign ministers on March 3 and 4. The final draft resolutions will be presented to the heads of state on March 7, 8 and 11, an official said here.

Western diplomats who studied the two drafts — containing more than 100 pages — said they do not vitiate the United States for its Latin American and Middle East policies, as had been the case in previous nonaligned gatherings.

The political draft urges Washington to follow "a more constructive policy for peace and dialogue" in Latin America, particularly in Nicaragua, Panama and Cuba. It emphasizes that Cuba has been subjected to a U.S. economic boycott for the past 22 years.

Washington's support for Israel and the Camp David accord, signed by the United States, Israel and Egypt, is not denounced as it was in the nonaligned foreign ministers' final resolution adopted in New Delhi in February 1981. The United States was then accused of supporting "Israel's aggressive policy in the Middle East."

The text voices support for the resolution adopted by Arab leaders at the summit in Fez, Morocco, last autumn. The Arab resolution calls for the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Middle East and Namibia's independence will be among the key issues discussed at the summit. The Palestinian Liberation Organization and Namibia's Southwest Africa People's Organization have been invited.

On Namibia, currently ruled by South Africa in defiance of United Nations resolutions, the draft condemned what it called the "foot-dragging" by the five-nation Western contact group (the United States, Britain, France, Canada and West Germany), the sources said. The contact group is mandated by the U.N. Security Council to negotiate an internationally acceptable independence settlement.

The economic draft resolution calls for a resumption of North-South dialogue, the development of South-South exchanges and a liberalization of rules of international bodies in favor of the Third World. It also proposes the establishment of a world food bank with a permanent reserve of 15 million tons of grain by 1985.

The political draft demands Mauritania sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago, which includes the island of Diego Garcia, site of a major U.S. naval base. That island is British, but is leased to the United States.

It also strongly condemns South Africa for its apartheid policy and Israel for its invasion of Lebanon. It calls for the return of the British-held Falkland Islands to Argentina and self-determination for Puerto Rico and the Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara.

Neither Moscow nor Hanoi is named in the draft although both are implicitly condemned for their military interventions in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

As in the 1981 foreign ministers' resolution, the current draft calls for "the withdrawal of foreign troops, respect for the territorial integrity and independence of the two countries and self-determination for the Afghan and Cambodian peoples."

As summit president, India will try to work out a compromise on Afghanistan and Cambodia, in an effort to safeguard the movement's unity and insulate it from East-West rivalry, authoritative Indian sources said.

India is standing firm on its decision not to invite Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia's anti-Hanoi coalition government. The Cambodian seat will be vacant unless nonaligned members decide otherwise by consensus, which is unlikely.

India has also circulated for consideration a three-point charter for "the settlement of disputes among member countries based on strict adherence to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries concerned, the inviolability of international borders, non-interference and respect for the rights of developing nations."

New Delhi hopes that the charter, if adopted, could serve as a basis for settlement of the 29-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

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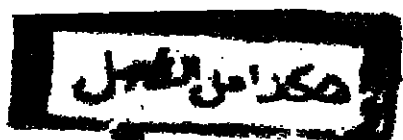
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Anticipating U.K. price cut

Spot oil trading at a standstill

LONDON, Feb. 17 (R) — International oil trading was virtually at a standstill Thursday in anticipation that Britain will cut its crude price Friday by between \$3 and \$3.50 a barrel.

Traders on the free spot market said business was restricted to meeting pressing short-term requirements for crude and many operators were content to stay out of the market pending a move on official prices.

Britain's state trading company, the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), is expected to recommend a cut in the North Sea oil price sometime Friday to both its suppliers and its customers.

The price tag on a barrel of British Forties crude, the marker for all North Sea grades, presently stands at \$33.50.

Industry sources are predicting a cut of either \$3 or \$3.50. They say a smaller reduction would fail to satisfy the demands of BNOC's major buyers while a larger cut could prompt an uncontrolled price slide on world markets.

Prices on the northwest European spot market have been depressed for the past month since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) failed at talks in Geneva to come up with a production-sharing scheme to counter the effects of the present world oil glut. British Forties crude traded Wednesday at \$29 a barrel, \$4.50 below the current official price.

The OPEC impasse put particular pressure on BNOC, which is constitutionally required to market all the oil at its disposal at prices dictated by market forces.

BNOC markets some 1.2 to 1.3 million barrels a day of total British North Sea production of around 2.2 million barrels, a figure that puts Britain among the world's top ten producers. Although Britain is not a member of OPEC, its expected price cut will put

immediate pressure on members of the exporter group, industry sources said.

Nigeria, which sells a high quality light crude comparable to British oil at \$35.50 a barrel, has seen sales plummet by about 50 percent this year because of the reluctance of buyers to commit themselves to long-term contracts at prices they believe are destined to fall.

There is speculation that Nigeria might match any BNOC cut and there were indications Thursday that major Gulf exporters are ready to start discounting.

The Bahraini finance minister, Ibrahim Abdul-Karim, was Thursday quoted as saying some Gulf OPEC states may already have offered price cuts on their own official rate of \$34 a barrel.

There was also news from Tokyo that Japanese importers were to reopen talks with Oman, a small Gulf producer, with a view to gaining a \$4 cut in the price of Omani oil.

OPEC sets aid at \$486 million

VIENNA, Feb. 17 (R) — OPEC finance ministers have approved plans to maintain aid to poorer countries in 1983 and 1984 from the organization's Fund for International Development at the same record level as last year, fund Director General Ibrahim Shihata has said.

The Vienna-based fund, set up in 1976, paid out \$486 million in 1982, although OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) suffered its first combined trade deficit for many years.

Shihata told a news conference of the fund's aims after a two-day annual meeting of its ministerial council in Vienna. He added, however, that the fund did not expect to receive such high levels of resources as before from OPEC's 13 member states if oil prices and revenues declined.

Shihata said the ministers from Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and Venezuela and delegates from Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates approved the plans, subject to possible future modification.

China plans to slash subsidies

PEKING, Feb. 17 (AP) — China is planning to slash subsidies from 30 percent to 20 percent of state spending, officials here say. But the cuts will be gradual, Western analysts say, so they won't antagonize workers and spark "Polish-type" unrest.

China's subsidies for 1978 to 1981 totaled about \$31.4 billion. That's about \$15 for food, clothing, housing, medical care and recreation for each worker.

Officials say the subsidy cuts are part of an effort to reduce the government's budget deficit, which was about \$750 million in 1982.

No major reductions have been reported yet. The cuts, when they come, are expected to be in subsidies for small everyday items, possibly radios and wrist watches. They also are expected in the countryside where peasants are being encouraged to produce more and earn more.

China, however, is providing about \$50 million in new subsidies to help 50 million peasants cope with a 20 percent increase in the price of cotton cloth.

However, Western economic analysts say the situation in China is different from that in Poland, where workers rioted a year ago over subsidy cuts that increased some prices as high as 400 percent.

"What happened in Poland simply cannot happen here," said one Western analyst who asked not to be named. "Something drastic is just not in the cards." The plan to trim the subsidies stems from proposals made last November by Finance Minister Wang Bing-qian.

Newspapers then were filled with reports of overly generous subsidies, fueling speculation that consumers were being prepared for price increases.

Cutting subsidies is considered an essential first step in reforming an irrational pricing system and freeing state money for such government priorities as developing transportation and energy.

Housing is one example of unrealistic prices. The average urban dweller pays only about \$1.25 a month rent, when the minimum to cover construction and maintenance costs would be between \$5 and \$7.50.

French jobless total declines

PARIS, Feb. 17 (R) — French adjusted unemployment fell 0.4 percent to 2,019,300 in January from 2,027,700 in December, the Employment Ministry said.

The December figure had been revised up from an original 2,009,000, the ministry added.

In unadjusted terms unemployment fell 0.1 percent to 2,130,000 last month from 2,131,400, the Employment Ministry said.

Food shortages grip Chad

N'DJAMENA, Feb. 17 (AFP) — People in central, eastern and northern Chad, who are facing serious food shortages, have for the last few weeks been moving in large numbers into the towns, or toward Sudan in the east, in search of something to eat, according to reliable sources here.

There has not been a proper cereal harvest in these regions since 1979 because of drought and civil war, which have been the cause of several previous major population movements. A report by U.N. experts speaks of "general impoverishment" and of "practically nil harvests."

Most of the inhabitants of the Kanem region, to the east of Lake Chad, are currently reduced to eating wild plants and roots. In December, agricultural experts stressed that these people's indigenous food supplies would not last more than two weeks.

In the eastern Bahr el Jebel region, millet production will this year be less than one-third of a normal harvest. At Guereda, a town of 10,000 residents, only salt and spices are for sale in the market.

In the northern Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti (BET) regions, the exodus extends to livestock, for which there is no fodder. The regions' inhabitants, who normally live by livestock raising, are exchanging their animals for millet or wheat.

Malnutrition and extremely poor sanitary conditions in these regions have led to a resurgence of tuberculosis, meningitis, leprosy and blindness.

According to medical doctors attached to humanitarian organizations who have visited the affected regions, the infant mortality rate has risen considerably because of a lack of vaccination programs for the past five years.

The Chadian authorities and international organizations have estimated that the country's population will require about 22,770 tons of emergency cereal aid between now and the month of June.

| SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT TENDERS | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Authority | Description | Tender Number | Tender Price | Closing Date |
| Municipal & Rural Affairs Ministry | Temporary asphalt for Sorat Ubaideh villages | 245 | 2,000 | Feb. 13 |
| " | Lighting Haki old streets | 246 | 1,000 | Feb. 14 |
| " | Construction of 3 model markets in Shamasia, Qassim | 247 | 500 | Feb. 15 |
| " | Construction of a mosque, Riyadh | 248 | 2,000 | Feb. 19 |
| " | Asphalt, paving & lighting in Zulf | 544/402/403 | 8,000 | Jan. 30 |

PORTS AUTHORITY JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS ON 4TH JAWWAL 1403/17TH FEBRUARY, 1983

| 1. SHIPS DISCHARGING: | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|---------|
| Berth | Name of Vessel | Agent | Type of Cargo | Arrival |
| 3 | Hellen | El Hawi | Contr/Gen. | 15.2.83 |
| 4 | Najran Zahabia | El Hawi | Gen/St/ Marble | 14.2.83 |
| 5 | Nafesa | Abdullah | Gen/St/Py | 14.2.83 |
| 6 | Mina | Kanoo | Sugar | 18.2.83 |
| 7 | Lafine P | O.C.E. | Fruits | 18.2.83 |
| 8 | Jay Lami | Beboud | Timber | 18.2.83 |
| 9 | Silvretta | A.A. | Bulk Wheat | 18.2.83 |
| 10 | New Zealand Reefer | O.C.E. | Refriger | 18.2.83 |
| 11 | Al Fajr Al Saudi I | Al Sabah | Gen/St/ Marble | 15.2.83 |
| 12 | Magda | Abdullah | Contr/Gen. | 14.2.83 |
| 13 | Golden Benin | El Hawi | Gen/Timber | 15.2.83 |
| 15 | Shokan Maru | O.C.E. | Apples | 15.2.83 |
| 16 | Prometheus | Rolaco | Bulk Cement | 16.1.83 |
| 19 | Jeddah Cement I | Al Sabah | Bulk Cement | 13.2.83 |
| 20 | Sage | Barnasodah | Steel/Timber | 14.1.83 |
| 21 | Karlan Reefer | O.C.E. | Frozen Chicken | 15.2.82 |
| 22 | Edinburgh Uni. | Star | Bananas | 16.2.83 |
| 23 | Barber Tennessee | Barber | Steel/General | 15.2.83 |
| 24 | Florida | Shobokahi | O.T.A. | 18.2.83 |
| 25 | Maldive Ambassador | A.E.T. | Foodstuffs | 17.2.83 |
| 26 | Sunderbars | A.E.T. | General/Steel | 16.2.83 |
| 27 | Good Warrior | Star | Bananas | 15.2.83 |
| 28 | Caribbean Uni. | Star | Tiles | 14.2.83 |
| 30 | Jadro | Atzar | St/General | 15.2.83 |
| 33 | Bailey | Kanoo | Containers | 13.2.83 |
| 34 | Chastine Maersk | Kanoo | | |

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT DAMMAM SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS OF 4.5.1403/17.2.1983 CHANGES FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS

| 1. VESSELS DISCHARGING: | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------|
| | Agent | Cargo | Time |
| 1 | Altreza | Sugar | 3.2.83 |
| 2 | Sweet Flag | Gen/Pywood | 13.2.83 |
| 3 | Ion Kheidoon | General | 15.2.83 |
| 5 | Saudi Al Madina | General | 16.2.83 |
| 8 | Blankenburg | Gen/Timber | 5.2.83 |
| 10 | Gul Jiang | General | 31.1.83 |
| 13 | Asia Chinho | Gen/Timber | 6.2.83 |
| 15 | Sea Astrea | General | 2.2.83 |
| 17 | Han Nara | General | 3.2.82 |
| 18 | Halla Partner | General | 1.2.83 |
| 19 | Kaghan | SEA | 30.1.83 |
| 21 | Kilmarnock | Kanoo | 1.2.83 |
| 24 | Fathulkhair | Kanoo | 1.2.83 |
| 25 | Union Yanbo | O.C.E. | 30.1.83 |
| 26 | Axel Maersk | Kanoo | 26.1.83 |
| 27 | Falcon Cement | Al Sabah | 26.1.83 |
| 29 | MIA | Barber | 25.1.83 |
| 30 | Tarpon Star | SCSA | 25.1.83 |
| 31 | Federal Huran | General | 28.1.83 |
| 33 | Union Beauty | Al Sabah | 4.1.83 |
| 36 | Parrs Flag | Barber | 29.1.83 |
| 37 | Garcia Larca (D.B.) | Globe | 27.1.83 |
| 38 | Nischo Maru (D.B.) | | |

Tankers lying idle touch 460 mark

LONDON, Feb. 17 (AFP) — The tonnage of oil tankers laid up this month reached a new record, the London-based shipbroker E.A. Gibson reported here, adding that there was also a rising trend of tanker scrapping.

In all, 460 vessels totaling 77.97 million deadweight tons were laid up on Feb. 15 — 2.8 million tons (16 vessels) more than January's peak and double the idle tonnage of just ten months ago.

Gibson said that about half of the "moth-balled" fleet now appeared unlikely to trade again. It added that tankers totaling 13.5 million tons were being used for storage — including 7.1 million tons by the Japanese.

Currently "sitting around" in the Gulf area were 51 very-large crude carriers (VLCCs) of 200/300,000 tons deadweight each, and ultra-large crude carriers (ULCCs) of 300,000 tons or more.

Gibson said that there was "little or no prospect of immediate employment" for these vessels. "It is this factor more than any other which will decide many owners to scrap older units," it added.

Some 32 ships totaling 2.7 million tons have been demolished so far this year — about 300,000 tons more than were scrapped over the same period last year.

3rd World debts worry W. Germany

BONN, Feb. 17 (R) — West Germany voiced mounting concern Thursday over the debts and policies of Third World countries and said it would place more emphasis on its own interests when deciding on future aid programs.

Development Minister Juergen Warnke said the combined debts of the developing countries reached over \$600 billion last year. It was particularly aggravating that new debts were being used more and more to pay off interest rates and old loans and less for development projects.

Warnke produced a long list of other barriers which, he said, were hampering development of Third World nations. These included too high birth rates, unjust distribution of income and wealth, lack of land reform, corruption, deficient administration, excessive bureaucracy and high military expenditure.

He was speaking at a news conference marking publication of the government's fifth development policy report. In a reference to mounting unemployment in West Germany, Warnke said selection and implementation of future aid projects would be made with a view to their impact on the country's labor market.

Mobil subsidiary incurs \$70m loss

BONN, Feb. 17 (R) — The West German subsidiary of Mobil, the world's second largest oil company, Thursday announced its worst annual loss since World War II, underlining the difficult position faced by the country's crude oil refiners.

Mobil Oil in Deutschland said poor results in its oil exploration and refining operations had turned a 225 million mark (\$94 million) profit in 1981 into a provisional 170 million mark (\$70 million) loss last year.

The reasons for the slump in Mobil's earnings are familiar to other West German oil refiners whose total losses last year are estimated at around 4.5 billion marks (\$1.9 billion).

Lisbon said seeking BIS loan

PARIS, Feb. 17 (AFP) — Portugal has discreetly approached the Bank of International Settlements for loans to help finance its crushing short-term debt problems, international financial sources have said.

Lisbon has to come up with \$2.5 billion currently due for payment on its total Western foreign debts, which are estimated at around \$12.5 billion. On June 30, 1982, they were officially put at \$11.6 billion.

Observers stress that while Lisbon's total foreign debt is not enormous in itself, it had doubled in two years. It also amounts to \$1,300 per capita — one of the world's highest ratios.

The cost of servicing this debt gobbled up 23 percent of export revenues last year, compared to an absolute limit of 20 percent considered acceptable by world bankers.

On this basis, Portugal is included in the list

of the world's most indebted countries. Its financial fragility was stressed by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its 1982 survey of world economies.

The sources said Portugal's request for help was put recently by Portuguese central bank officials to Fritz Leutwiler, the president of the BIS, which is known as "the central bank of central banks."

Details of the Portuguese request are not known, but financial analysts say that Lisbon asked for short-term loans backed by gold. It has big gold reserves estimated at 650 tons, inherited from the government of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar.

These reserves are worth about \$5.3 billion in an official gold price of \$254.92 an ounce, and \$10.4 billion at the current market price of around \$500 an ounce.

Ireland intensifies search for oil bonanza

DUBLIN, Feb. 17 (R) — International oil companies are poised to start a new round of drilling off the Irish coast in search of the bonanza that could transform the life of Ireland's 35 million people.

In a second round of licensing that closed last year, 10 permits covering 24 separate exploration blocks were issued, and drilling is to start in April on the first of seven or eight wells scheduled this year. This compares with just four wells completed last year, and guarantees the Irish government a steady level of exploration up to the middle of the decade.

Energy officials said that in view of the depressed state of the world oil industry, the response to the latest licensing round had been encouraging. But significantly the main interest this year has swung away from the Porcupine area off the west coast, where water and heavy seas call for huge investment, to the shallower Celtic Sea in the southeast.

There have been four wells in the Porcupine flowing oil on test, but with water depths of 1,100-1,200 feet (335-365 meters), deeper than North Sea operations, and heavy wells, only major companies could afford to take the long view, oil industry sources said.

The cost of drilling a single well in the area can be up to \$30 million, they said, and

if a major discovery is made there new technology would be required to bring it on stream.

Only one well will be drilled in the Porcupine region this year, by British Petroleum, in the same area that has produced two flowing wells, although two further wells were dry. The company is now trying to obtain a better picture of the structure it is dealing with, oil sources said.

Esso, as the sole licensee of the Goban Spur area off the south-western tip of Ireland, has gone even deeper than BP. Last year it drilled in 3,000 feet (900 meters) of water, which ranks among the greatest water depths drilled anywhere. According to the magazine *Irish Offshore Review*, the result of the first drilling, completed ahead of schedule, was encouraging.

The major attraction of the Porcupine is that it appears to contain large structures promising major reserves of oil if they contain any at all.

In contrast the Celtic Sea, where six of this year's wells will be drilled, has small structures. However, the water is much shallower, meaning that conventional technology can be used and less investment is required.

The Celtic sea is the site of a major natural gas field in the Kinsale head that came on stream in 1978 and is now being

Dollar rates take a tumble

By J.H. Hammond

JEDDAH, Feb. 17 — The dollar fell back sharply on the New York exchanges Wednesday night after it had made a turn around on the European market the same day. The New York slide can be attributed to the remarks of the Federal Reserve Board chairman's congressional testimony had implied that U.S. interest rates would come down soon. What Chairman Volcker had stated was that the "Fed" would go after a broader and higher monetary target for 1983.

The money markets then assumed that the present "Fed's" tight monetary policy would be relaxed leading to lower interest rates in the hope of stimulating an economic recovery program.

On Wednesday night, "Fed fund" prime lending rates were traded around 8 1/2 - 8 3/4 percent which implied that the new "Fed's" policy, if any, was still not being implemented. The congressional testimony overshadowed the news that U.S. industrial production had risen by 0.9 percent in the month of January compared to a 0.1 percent in the previous month. This prompted some U.S. administration officials to state that the economic turnaround in the United States had now begun.

The Thursday exchange markets were generally in a hesitant mood and rates moved sharply in panic buying and selling as the European bourses tried to analyze the significance of Volcker's testimony. The dollar made some small gains against the French franc and the British pound but on the whole the American currency was still weak after the New York falls.

The German mark was stronger at

2,388 levels with the markets still in the opinion that the present Conservative coalition will win the coming general elections. The British pound was stronger at 1,5510 levels on the morning exchanges but later fell back to 1,5490 on profit-taking and fears of a cut in British North Sea oil prices.

The Swiss currency was 200 points stronger at the 1,9800 levels, while the French franc fluctuated around the 6,7700 level. It was the Japanese yen which made the most sustained rise against the dollar and traded around the 231.80 levels compared to 235.80 on Tuesday.

The experiences of the past two days on the exchange markets has demonstrated that the markets are in a nervous and volatile state and any remarks from the U.S. administration officials are liable to produce some rapid changes.

On the local markets, spot rial/dollar exchange prices fell back sharply to 3,4390-00 at one stage in the face of a weaker dollar in Europe. Some steady commercial demand pushed the rate back up to 3,4398-05 but it was still lower than Tuesday prices of 3,4405-08 levels.

On the deposit markets, rial interest rates were generally stable but some small rises of around 1/4 to 1/2 percent were noted in the short-dated funds taking the week-fixed to 7 1/2 percent and the one-month JIBOR to 7 1/4 percent levels.

LONDON (AP) — Closing gold prices (in U.S. dollars per troy ounce):

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| London | 502.87 |
| Paris | 507.56 |
| Frankfurt | 504.75 |
| Zurich | 504.50 |
| Hong Kong | 504.99 |

Syria resumes debt repayment

PARIS, Feb. 17 (AFP) — Syria has resumed a trickle of repayments on its big foreign debts following draconian steps to tackle its serious money problems of the past year, reliable financial and banking sources have said.

Many foreign firms with interests here have been waiting for several months for overdue payments on foreign purchases totaling hundreds of millions of dollars.

The country's foreign debts soared from \$232 million in 1970 to \$3.9 billion at the end of 1981. Later figures are not available.

European sources said that it was Syria's United States creditors which were showing the most nervousness over the payments delay.

The liberalization of Syria's economy and the restoration of U.S.-Syrian relations in 1974 sent U.S. exports to Syria surging six-fold over the previous six years to 800 million Syrian pounds (about \$160 million) a year now.

Analysts here said that the central bank's shortage of foreign exchange appeared to be the main problem hampering Syrian commercial banks, all of them nationalized. Damascus is currently considered a bad

international lending risk. But it can count on raising between \$1.5 and \$2 billion a year from its Arab neighbors.

The analysts say that Syria's financial problems started with the ambitious development program launched by President Hafez Assad. His five-year plan for 1981-85 allowed for a real growth rate of 7.6 percent a year.

The investment plan, for example, included the spending of 102.4 billion Syrian pounds (about \$20 billion) — involving the doubling of public sector spending to 80 billion pounds, most of it on industry.

Last winter the government introduced austerity measures to boost exports and brake imports, which had shot up four-fold between 1974 and 1980 to 16 billion Syrian pounds.

Letters of credit to finance imports were made hard to get, and a ban was slapped on the imports of luxury goods. At the same time, a parallel foreign exchange system was set up to attract tourist currencies.

The government has also launched a series of efficiency "purges" in the public sector to stop corruption and the wasting of state money. Some officials, including a bank director, were hanged in public, and dozens of others have been imprisoned.

BRIEFS

ROME (AFP) — Italian steel production dropped 20 percent last month compared to January 1982, according to industry statistics published in Milan. Output fell to 1,779,000 tons against 2,220,000 tons a year before. Production of special steel dropped 16 percent over the same period to 392,000 tons. Total Italian steel output last year was

24,015,000 tons — the lowest in five years.

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's foreign currency reserves fell \$625 million in January to \$1.95 billion after a fall of \$1.20 billion in December, the central bank said. Foreign currency reserves stood at \$2.58 billion at the end of December, the bank said.

PARIS (R) — Citroen management said it would sack eight persons and suspend 14 others involved in a fight at the company's Aulnay plant outside Paris earlier this month. The fighting on Feb. 2, in which 25 persons were injured, led to a two-day closure of the factory and the immediate suspension of 30 workers.

LONDON (R) — South Korea's estimated national debt at the end of 1986 has been trimmed back to \$49 billion from a figure of \$64.5 billion projected two years ago, Ki Hwan Kim, president of the Korea Development Institute said. Kim told reporters the debt standing at \$37 billion at the end of 1982 is "not unmanageable."

FREMONT, California (AFP) — Former workers at the General Motors Fremont plant, shut down a year ago, Wednesday reacted angrily to suggestions that they would not be given jobs priority when Toyota and G.M. start joint production here. Toyota president Ajji Toyoda said that the 6,500 sacked G.M. workers would not get priority for the 3,

arab news

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SLIMMERS, BEWARE!

The dieting craze has come to stay. But some of its ardent devotees better be careful. The trouble is that the result of all the slimming exercises is not always a nice figure. In fact, the line dividing the blessed state of being thin and petite and ugly-looking emaciated skeletons can, indeed, be very thin. And at times with disastrous results too, as the case of singer Karen Carpenter shows with all its tragic poignancy. The famous singer whose voice helped sell more than \$60 million worth of records died last week in Los Angeles of an apparent heart attack which people who should know better link with anorexia nervosa, that stage when the desire to be thin and slim becomes too acute and too tragic.

Doctors say that if carried beyond a limit, those who skip all food just to stay fine and fairy become autodigesting in which the body begins feeding on its protein store. The result is that the victims become as close to a skeleton as it is humanly possible while being alive. Miss Carpenter, we are told, was as light as 38 kg at one time.

Yet the dieting mania continues and not only among stars and starlets and not only in Los Angeles. It is a worldwide phenomenon among women. It is not known whether the secret behind Helen of Troy's much praised success in launching a thousand ships was her strict adherence to a vigorous slimming schedule. There is no record to indicate that Cleopatra's celebrated nose which is said to have changed the course of history was the result of some such exercises either.

But why worry about Cleopatra when today's young girls have their nearest approximation to the classical Egyptian beauty in Princess Diana and she is said to be a particularly ardent devotee of this craze? This does not mean that only young girls are obsessed with a desire to maintain their figure. All of us, women particularly, live in terrible fear of the moment when our necks sag, dewlaps drop and wrinkles mass. First there is the attempt to hide everything beneath a thick layer of cosmetics. Then the tendency to hide the real age. There are some women, especially film stars, who never grow after a particular stage and age. They even stop celebrating their birthdays. And no wonder: after all, birthdays are unpleasant reminders of one's advancing age.

Saudi Arabian press review

Saudi Arabian newspapers Thursday appealed to the leaders attending the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers to adopt the Arab peace plan approved at the Fez summit to solve the Middle East crisis.

Okaz said now that the Palestinian Fez peace plan as a basis to solve the conflict, the next step would be to draw up the outlines ensuring its implementation. It added that the Palestinians should now present Arab leaders with a Palestinian formula for discussion and implementation.

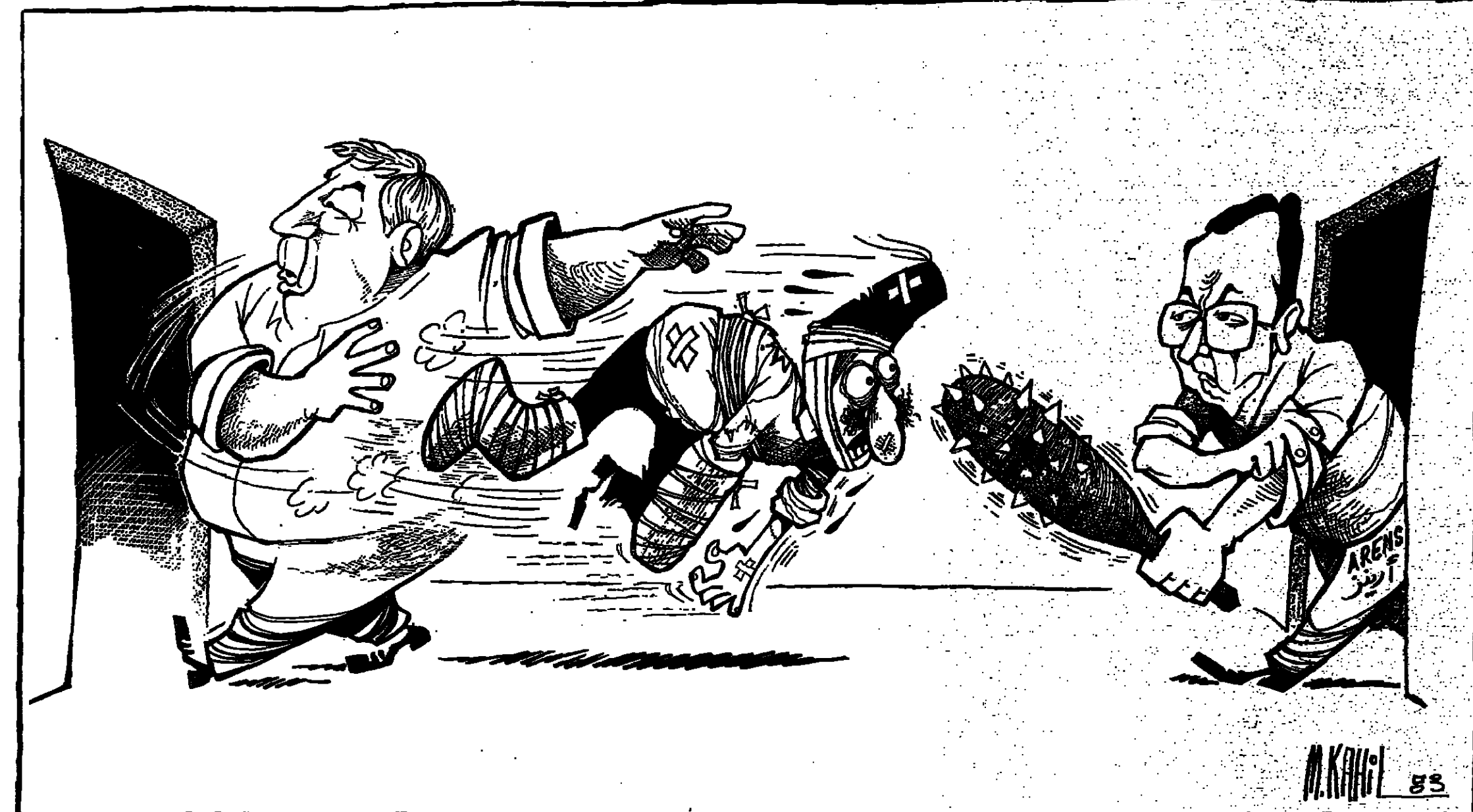
Al-Bilad said the positive international reaction to the Arab peace plan made the world draw closer to peace and stability in the Middle East.

Al-Jazirah said the Fez summit had succeeded in avoiding the past mistake of relying on the big powers to achieve just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Al-Yom called for Arab moves to honor the Fez summit resolutions, especially the unified peace plan, in seeking the desired settlement. It affirmed that the Arab plan in whole and in part safeguarded the Palestinian rights through the establishment of peace based on justice. The paper cautioned that the Israeli enemy which is going ahead in implementing designs to partition Lebanon, will not fail to exploit any gap created by the current Arab situation.

Al-Madina also warned of the gravity of the Lebanese situation in the light of signs of partition led by renegade Army Major Saad Haddad and his aides at the instigation of the Israeli enemy authorities.

It criticized America's attitude toward developments in Lebanon and its indifference to attempts at partitioning Lebanon to serve Israeli interests. (SPA)



Struggling Kaunda tries to win over opposition

By Richard Hall

LONDON — President Kenneth Kaunda has a genius for political juggling. When members of his cabinet and party central committee grow too ambitious or quarrelsome, he whisks them all around. For extra flexibility, he will shuffle the diplomatic service and senior posts in various organizations.

Even by African standards, the Zambian game of chance is unparalleled. Take the case of Prime Minister Nalundino Munda (who has just been given the additional responsibility of the finance ministry, at a moment when the economy is, in his own words, a "shambles").

At independence in 1964, Munda was minister of commerce and industry but was soon dismissed after a trifling charge of corruption. He went into opposition to the ruling United National Independence Party, and had a spell in detention. Then came a reconciliation, and Munda was not only restored to the bosom of UNIP but bowed into the premier's office.

Kaunda is now using his political sleight of hand more imaginatively than ever. It is not merely that in his latest reshuffle he moved the former minister of finance to the ministry of sport. Bolder by far than that, he has given up trying to put the country's

leading trade unionists back in jail, and has put them instead on the board of the all-powerful Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation, simultaneously appointing himself ZIMCO chairman.

Best-known of those so suddenly restored to favor are Frederick Chiluba, chairman of the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, and Newstead Zimba, the ZCTU general secretary. Two years ago, they were arrested after a wave of strikes and disorders on the copperbelt, but regained their liberty by writs of *habeas corpus*. The state said it would appeal, and deliberately left the threat in the air.

Suddenly Kaunda has praised the "tranquility" on the copperbelt, while making offers they could not refuse the Chiluba and his colleagues. Some of the lesser union lights will also be given directorships in ZIMCO subsidiary companies. The perks and the prestige are, needless to say, part of a presidential master plan for getting through 1983. It looks like being the most arduous and awkward year since Kaunda took on the presidency in 1964. That is a sobering thought for him, for Zambia has never had an easy time—especially during the UDI era next door to Ian Smith's rebel Rhodesia.

But now the end of the economic line has been reached, and Zambia is no longer able to dodge the truth: it is a desperately poor country, buried in

debts. As Prime Minister Munda admits, the prospects for 1983 are "gloomy." This also happens to be general election year, with polling expected in September or October. Finally, there is the dark cloud of a treason trial. Appeals to the appeal court are pending from seven men who on Jan. 20 were given mandatory death sentences.

So to get through to 1984 (the 20th anniversary of Zambia's birth), Kaunda will need to reconcile as many elements as possible. His appeals for national unity in recent weeks have been far more than run-of-the-mill rhetoric; he is concerned not simply with personal survival, but what he calls "keeping the country standing."

Apart from sweetening up the trade union bosses, he has been making friendly noises toward some of his former lieutenants who have gone (or been sent) into the political wilderness. One such is Andrew Kashita, now in practice in Lusaka as a consulting engineer but once a formidable and efficient minister of mines. Kaunda, after a quarrel sacking him several years ago, but in present straits could well use his skills.

But can it work, this bid to tie up all the unraveled strands of power in Zambia? The ZCTU general secretary, Newstead Zimba, welcomed the offer of directorships. "We want integration, not confrontation," he remarked. The government will sell the initiative as a breakthrough in "worker participation."

Yet shortly before the New Year, Chairman Chiluba had warned that there must be "tough negotiations" by the ZCTU to maintain living standards if the local currency, the kwacha, had to be devalued. It has been since devalued (by 25 percent against major Western currencies) but there is also a wage freeze until 1984 for all except the most lowly paid.

It seems there will not be any tough negotiations after all, although prices have soared for basics such as mealie meal and cooking oil. There is certain to be bitter reaction on the copperbelt, the most densely populated urban complex in central Africa, with its million-plus population. Kaunda's support is waning on the copperbelt, which does not care to listen when he tells the miners that they are now producing a metal that is in hopeless over-supply all around the world.

Copperbelters have always believed that Zambia revolves around them—and indeed they are physically in the center of the country. They regard the capital, 200 miles south, as an overfed parasite. An urgent and tricky task for Kaunda will be to persuade the miners that the politicians are also genuinely tightening their belts. (LOS)

Tug of war in Turkey to control main political party

By David Barchard

ANKARA — As Turks settle down to discover just how much freedom of activity will be permitted to them under a draft bill regulating political parties, a three-way tug of war is beginning for control over the main right of center party.

The draft bill on political parties is now being examined in the 160-man nominated Consultative Assembly. After being approved there, it will become law after it is approved by the ruling five-man Council of Ministers. But, with the left of center parties expected to be hobbled by the new law, the fight is on to grab control of the area formerly occupied by Suleyman Demirel's Justice Party.

Demirel himself, banned from politics for ten years, is fighting behind the scenes to keep his following intact. Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu is talk-

ing to conservative right-wing politicians who led splinter group parties during the 1970s. This resembles earlier efforts, all electorally unsuccessful, by military backed politicians in Turkey to strike alliances with defectors from the center left Republican Peoples Party.

But Ulusu faces another challenge. Turkey's former economic mastermind, Turgut Ozal, is also jostling to lead a new center right party. He is backed by most businessmen who admire his brilliant operation to rescue the Turkish economy after its collapse in 1979. Ozal seems to be hinting that he will not serve under Ulusu. But he has a major handicap: Despite glowing press publicity, many ordinary Turks blame him for slicing into their standard of living in the last two years.

One idea that seems to have died is that of an "Evenist" party, known here as the "Center Party" modeled on the French Gaullist Party. A major Western embassy in Ankara lobbied heavily

against the idea. As a result, Ulusu and his backers now look to the center-right as their natural constituency. That they do not fear a challenge from the left—which got the largest share of the votes in the last general elections—is partly the result of splits and squabbles among Bulent Ecevit's former supporters.

It is also the result of the new political parties law. Few other countries have laws regulating political parties. None, surely, can have one as comprehensive and firm as Turkey's 122-clause draft law. No fewer than eight times the law spells out things that parties can never do. It will be impossible to found a regional, separatist, Marxist—or even the equivalent of a Christian Democrat Party in Turkey under the new law.

Parties will not be allowed to do anything threatening the identity or unitary nature of the state. They will not be allowed to talk about ethnic differences (in a country where there are substantial

minority language groups) or to argue religious, sectarian, personal, family, or interest group policies. These restrictions, already placed in the constitution, are repetitiously scattered throughout different points of the draft.

Parties will not be allowed to have direct links with unions and private donations to them must be no larger than 1,500 pounds from any individual source. This is expected to cripple left of center parties.

There will be no state aid and all party budgets will be annually inspected by the constitutional court. Prosecutors will examine parties to see if they have violated restrictions. A suggestion to change the national anthem or the flag would be sufficient to shut a party down—twelve clauses in the law regulate the shutdown of political parties. Another nine spell out penalties, including prison terms, for offenders.

One key restriction is of course that parties will not be allowed to criticize the present military government's actions since taking power in 1980. The strangest and most severe regulations in the new bill—which is designed to ensure that parties in future are not led by strong leaders such as Demirel and Ecevit—gives opposition groups in parties an automatic right to representation in party councils.

The aim seems to be to produce weak parties which can be manipulated by a strong president. But party unity will be safeguarded by rules which prevent parliamentarians from splitting from their parties on key issues and joining another party. (G)

Letters to the editor

Insurance payments

Sir,

I am working in Saudi Arabia for the past three years and contribute regularly my share of premium for the social insurance. I am 52 years old and will be leaving the Kingdom in one month's time.

When I checked with the authorities of the General Organization of Social Insurance (GOSI) for the reimbursement of the premium contributed by me, I was told that I will not be paid anything till I am 60 years old and then I will have to apply for reimbursement. I think this is very unfair.

I have four children, all under 21 years of age, studying in universities and it will take four years for them to graduate and obtain employments. It costs a lot of money to educate them in the universities. I do not have enough savings and I cannot get any job in my country due to my age. I can't be self-employed due to lack of capital.

We, the expatriates, come here to work and we contribute our efforts for the overall improvement of the country and of course we are paid adequate salary for the same but we have to undergo many hardships and extremely tough living conditions. A majority of the work force of the expatriates return to their countries due to compelling family circumstances and obligations.

By the grace of Allah The Almighty, Saudi Arabia is blessed with abundant natural resources and its economy and influence are growing day by day and may Allah keep Saudi Arabia and its noble people that way. I don't think that the Saudi government needs this very meagre, insignificant amount, contributed by the "guest workers." I think it is only fair that these amounts be returned to them when they leave the Kingdom for good. The authorities of GOSI should realize the plight of these people and should pay them back their lawful contributions. This will enhance the goodwill among the expatriates and I am sure that Allah, the Benevolent will bless the Saudi Arabian nation for this noble gesture.

Sayed Mohammed Khan
P.O. Box No. 877
Riyadh.

Views sought

Sir,

For the past few months, a number of expatriates working in the Kingdom have written in this column about the Kingdom's Social Insurance System. It will be good if we hear the views of the GOSI authorities on this issue through the press.

K.J. George Kutty
Saudi Cement Company
P.O. Box 306
Dammam.

Indian Muslims

Sir,

This is in response to Abdussalam's letter on Indian Muslims published recently in *Arab News*. I would like to invite Abdussalam's attention to the following points.

India is a secular state where all religions are treated equally. According to the Indian constitution, all Indians have equal rights to practice their own religion without any restriction. Hence, it is wrong to say that Muslims are tortured by Hindus. Indian Muslims are highly respected by most of the Hindus.

India has raised its voice against Israeli invasion of Palestine. It even closed the Israeli embassy in New Delhi. And Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi ordered immediate medical aid for the Palestinian war victims.

Abdussalam should remember that no special preference is given in India to a particular community or sect on the basis of caste or creed.

Since Independence in 1947, India has had two Muslim presidents, Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad. Dr. Hidayatullah is the present vice president. This shows that Muslims are appointed even to the topmost post.

Shamsuddin Wavni
P.O. Box 1550
Jeddah.

Facts on partition

Sir,

This has reference to the letter published in *Arab News* Jan. 5 under the heading, "A fitting reply." While your editorial of Dec. 30, may be a fitting reply to the Western propaganda about India's intentions, it is the misconception about the partition of the subcontinent as stated by Syed Ali which should be deplored and condemned.

His assertion that it was Western media's efforts which culminated in the partition of the subcontinent is highly objectionable and incorrect. This insinuation negates the efforts and great sacrifices of millions of Muslims of the subcontinent and is a very grave insult to the martyrs, who lost their lives in the struggle for Pakistan.

Syed Ali should correct his records by noting that the demand for Pakistan was put up by the majority of the Muslims of the subcontinent under the British rule, after having worked for the independence shoulder to shoulder with the Hindus. But the Muslims were soon convinced that the Hindus will exploit the Muslims if they remained together. Hence the demand for Pakistan.

In present-day India, there are anti-Muslim riots practically every day and the recent statement of the president of India that "blood flows like water" is the proof of economical exploitation and religious persecution of the Muslims and this manifestation was the reason for the partition of the subcontinent and not the successful policy of the British of divide and rule as is being made out by Syed Ali.

Hindu leaders were working together with British against the interest of Pakistan during the period. Certain gains India has in land areas like Gurdaspur and the resultant tragedy of Kashmir as a result of this are proofs of this conspiracy.

The forcible occupation of Kashmir and Hyderabad and other states by India against the wishes of the people there and against world opinion is probably what Syed Ali means as India's standing on the side of justice and peace.

M. Yousuf
P.O. Box 7166
Riyadh
K.S.A.

Today in History

Today is Friday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 1983. There are 316 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1574 — Dutch rebels seize Zeeland.

1685 — La Salle, French explorer, establishes first settlement in Texas.

1836 — Reform edict is published in Turkish empire.

1874 — Benjamin Disraeli forms Conservative ministry in England.

1899 — China opposes Italy's demand for concessions at Dhekang.

1945 — Battle for Iwo Jima in Pacific begins in World War II.

1965 — African nation of Gambia becomes independent within British Commonwealth.

1970 — Young Filipinos storm U.S. Embassy compound in Manila protesting U.S. military bases in Philippines and U.S. economic policy.

1974 — Arab oil countries, except for Libya and Syria, end oil embargoes against United States and move to restore production to meet demand.

1979 — Soviet Union warns China to stop its conflict with Vietnam "before it is too late."

1982 — U.S. President Ronald Reagan says there are no plans to send American combat troops into action in El Salvador or anywhere else.

Thought for today:

Words are the most powerful drug used by mankind. — Rudyard Kipling, (1865-1936)

Islam in perspective

What the Qur'an teaches

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Beneficent
And it sailed with them amid waves towering like mountains. Noah cried out to his son who stood at a distance: "Embark with us, my child, and do not stay with the unbelievers." He answered: "I shall seek refuge in a mountain, which will afford me protection from the water." Said (Noah): "Today there is no protection for anyone from Allah's judgment, except for those to whom He will show mercy." Thereupon waves rose up between them and he was among those who were drowned. And the word was spoken: "Earth, swallow up your waters. Heaven, cease (your rain)." The water was made to subside and Allah's will was done, and the ark came to rest on (the mount) Al-Judi. The word was spoken: "Away with these evil-doing folk."

Noah called out to his Lord, saying: "Lord, my son is of my family. Surely Your promise always comes true, and You are the most just of judges." "Noah," He said, "he was not of your family; his was an evil conduct. Do not question Me about matters of which you have no knowledge. I admonish you lest you become one of the ignorant."

Said (Noah): "My Lord, I do indeed seek refuge in You from ever questioning You about something of which I have no knowledge. Unless You forgive me and have mercy on me I shall be among the losers."

It was said (to him): "Noah, disembark in peace from Us, and with Our blessings upon you as well as upon generations from those who are with you. As for other generations, We shall let them have enjoyment, and then there will befall them grievous suffering from Us."

These accounts of things that have passed We now reveal to you. Neither you, nor your people knew them before this. Be patient, then, for the future belongs to those who fear Allah.

(HOUD: 11: 42-50)

Floods and a father's plea

This passage opens with an awe-inspiring scene, the scene of the floods. There are, however, two elements of fear: one emanates from nature, stormy but silent as it is; and the other is felt in one's innermost soul. Both converge as the ark moves on amidst waves as huge as mountains. At this terrible, decisive moment, Noah looks in a certain direction and he sees one of his sons, having kept himself away and having not joined them in the ark. The father's emotion is roused within Noah and he calls out to his stray child: Embark with us, my child, and do not stay with the unbelievers. Disobedient as he is, the son does not respond to his loving father. A conceited youth, he does not realize the extent of the terrible event which is taking place. He says: "I shall seek refuge in a mountain, which will afford me protection from the water." Aware of the terrible reality, the father pleads with him for the last time: Today there is no protection for anyone from Allah's judgment, except for those to whom He will show mercy. No mountains, no hideouts, no protectors for anyone, save to those on whom Allah has mercy. In an instant, the scene changes and the towering waves swallow up everything. Thereupon waves rose up between them and he was among those who were drowned.

Today as we read the account given in the Qur'an, thousands of years after these

events, we try hard to hold ourselves together as if we see these events happening before our own eyes. The ark is sailing amidst huge waves. Noah, the worried father makes one plea after another; his conceited young son turns his back with insolence; and a towering wave settles the issue in no time. Everything is over as if the dialogue did not take place.

The element of fear and worry in this scene is measured by its depth in the human soul, in the exchange between father and son. It is also measured by its extent in nature, as the waves rise high to submerge the tops of the mountains. Both elements are equal in the solemn, silent nature and in the human soul. This is a distinctive feature of the artistic imagery in the Qur'an.

The storm subsides, an air of calmness spreads, the matter is settled and Allah's will done. The words used here give an impression of something coming to a complete rest. The earth and the heavens are addressed as if they were human beings. Both comply with the clear commandment. The earth swallows up its water and the heaven stops raining. And the word was spoken: "Earth, swallow up your waters. Heaven, cease your rain." The water was made to subside. The earth took it all inside her and its surface was dry. Allah's will was done and the ark came to rest on Al-Judi. That was its final stop. The word was

spoken: Away with these evil-doing folk. A short, decisive and highly expressive sentence. The word was spoken. We are not told who said it, to give an impression that the whole affair of the evil-doers need not be considered again. Away with these evil-doing folk. Let them disappear beyond Allah's mercy for they deserve to be cursed; and let them be banished from memory, for they do not deserve to be remembered.

Now that the storm has subsided and the ark has come to rest, the paternal love of a distressed father is felt again by Noah. He makes this appeal to Allah: "Noah called out to his Lord, saying: Lord, my son is of my family. Surely Your promise always comes true, and You are the most just of judges." Noah makes it clear that he recognizes that Allah is just and wise. Nothing He does is without a reason. Yet he has been promised that his family will be safe and now he requests that Allah fulfill the promise He has made to him to spare his family. Allah's answer states the fact which Noah has overlooked. By Allah's standards and according to His principles, one's family are not necessarily one's blood relations. The true relationship is that of faith. This son of Noah was not a believer, and as such he was not a member of the family of this Prophet. The answer is firm and emphatic. Indeed there is an element of reproach and warning in the answer: Noah, he was not of your family; his was an evil conduct. Do not question Me about matters of which you have no knowledge. I admonish you lest you become one of the ignorant. It is a great principle of this religion which states that the paramount relationship that exists between individuals is not the one based on family affinity: He was not of your family; his was an evil conduct. Your relationship with him is thus severed despite the fact that he is your own son. Since the basic tie between the two of you does not exist, no other tie has any significance.

Since Noah has made a prayer requesting the fulfillment of a promise which he does not deem to have been fulfilled, the answer included an implicit reproach and warning: Do not question Me about matters of which you have no knowledge. I admonish you lest you become one of the ignorant. The admonition is needed lest Noah becomes one of those who are ignorant of the real ties and relationships, or unaware of Allah's promise and its interpretation. For Allah's promise has been done and Noah's true family has been saved. Noah, a true believer and a humble servant of Allah, trembles with fear that he may have erred in what he said to his Lord. He, therefore, appeals to Him and prays for His forgiveness: My Lord, I do indeed seek refuge in You from ever questioning You about something of which I have no knowledge. Unless You forgive me and have mercy on me I shall be among the losers.

Allah has mercy on Noah and he is reassured. He is given blessings which also include the good people of his offspring. The others will receive severe punishment: It was said to him: Noah, disembark in peace from Us, and with Our blessings upon you as well as upon generations from those who are with you. As for other generations, We shall let them have enjoyment, and then there will befall them grievous suffering from Us. The end is clear: He and those who believe of His offspring will be saved and will have magnificent reward. Those, however, who prefer the enjoyment of this worldly life will have it for a while but then will be overtaken by severe chastisement. The same glad tidings and the same warnings which were made at the opening of the surah are confirmed by the story in order to make them much more real to those who are addressed by the Qur'an.

The comment on this history is summarized in one verse: These accounts of things that have passed We now reveal to you. Neither you, nor your people knew them before this. Be patient, then, for the future belongs to those who fear Allah. The comment sums up the objectives of relating such stories in the Qur'an: It establishes the fact of revelation denied by the unbelievers. These stories were unknown to the Prophet or to his people. It was part of Allah's knowledge and the Prophet could not have known about it except through revelation from the One who knows all.

It also establishes the fact that the true faith has always been the same, ever since Noah, the second father of mankind. The message of the Prophet is stated in almost the same expressions used by Noah.

The objections and the accusations made by those who denied the message of the Prophet are always the same. The lessons of the past are overlooked. Every generation of unbelievers repeats the same objections and accusations despite the fact that they have been proved to be hollow in previous generations.

The comment also establishes the fact that the glad tidings and the warnings made by the Prophet will surely come to pass. The story is a testimony from history.

Another fact which is established by this comment is that Allah's laws will not fail. They do not favor anyone: The future belongs to those who fear Allah. They are the ones who will prosper and who will be given power.

It also establishes the true tie that exists between individuals and generations. It is the tie of faith, the same faith which holds together all believers in Allah, the only Lord of the universe. All generations of believers have in common the fact that they submit themselves to Him alone and ascribe divinity to no one else.

Life of the Prophet -98 Second Jewish tribe evacuated from Madinah

By Adil Salahi

The attempt by Al-Nadheer Jewish tribe to assassinate the Prophet when he went to ask them to contribute to the ransom of the two Amirite men killed by his companion, Amr ibn Umayyah was a blatant act of treachery which could not have been allowed to go unpunished. After all, there was no reason whatsoever for the Jews of Al-Nadheer to plot against the life of the Prophet with whom they had a treaty of peaceful coexistence and cooperation. Their only motive for such an action was their uncompromising hatred of the Prophet and Islam. Their hatred was absolutely inexplicable in the sense that the Jews in Arabia were a small minority who followed a monotheistic religion amidst a pagan nation which worshipped idols represented by statues of stone, gold and wood. The rise of a powerful monotheistic religion in that society should have given them pleasure. Instead, they viewed it with hatred because it did not subscribe to their feeling of supremacy over all other nations and religions.

When the Prophet had returned to Madinah, having been informed of the treachery of Al-Nadheer tribe, he sent them a messenger called Muhammad ibn Masslamah to convey to them the following message: "Betake yourselves out of my city. You are no longer allowed to share it with me when you have plotted your treacherous action against me. I give you a ten day notice to carry out this ultimatum. Whoever of you is seen after this period in Madinah shall be executed."

The message was absolutely clear and left no room for compromise. We have to understand that in the circumstances of Madinah, where in the same city, three different communities, the pagan Arabs, the Jews and the Muslims lived side by side, an act of blatant treachery like the one perpetrated by Al-Nadheer Jews could not have been easily tolerated. Trouble from within Madinah had to be stamped out immediately, with all the vigor and determination necessary to make everybody understand that severe punishment awaits any traitor.

The Jews of Al-Nadheer started to get ready for their evacuation. The terms of the ultimatum allowed them to carry with them all their belongings and to appoint agents to look after their farms and orchards. The terms can thus be seen to be highly humanitarian. They were not to be dispossessed of any property they had. Since they were no match on their own to the Muslims from the military point of view, it was only common sense that they should leave without further trouble. A new development, however, caused them to revise their position. They received a message from Abdullah ibn Ubai, the most prominent of the hypocrites, who split the Muslim army before the battle of Uhud and deserted with three hundred of his followers. He asked them to reject the Prophet's ultimatum and to refuse to evacuate Madinah. He promised them support saying that he had two thousand men who were ready to fight with them. They were prepared to go into their forts with them to fight alongside them and that the Jewish tribe of Quraythah and the Arab tribe of Ghatafan, who were allies with Al-Nadheer tribe, could also come to their support. Abdullah ibn Ubai also pledged that his own people would give them full backing to the extent that if the worse came to the worst and Al-Nadheer tribe were made to evacuate Madinah they would leave with them.

Huyai ibn Akhtab, the chief of Al-Nadheer tribe, was very excited at the offer of Abdullah ibn Ubai. He felt that there was an excellent chance of defeating the Muslims. After all, the Muslims' morale, he imagined, was very low after their defeat at Uhud and the massacres of their fellow creatures at Al-Rajie and Bir Ma'oonah. He therefore, sent a message to the Prophet saying: "We are not prepared to evacuate our homes. We will resist any attempt to evacuate us. You can do as you please." When the Prophet received this message he and his followers glorified Allah and said: "The Jews have decided to fight."

The Muslims mobilized, and the Prophet marched at the head of a considerable force, with Ali carrying the flag. He asked his blind

companion, Abdullah ibn Umm Makroum, to deputize for him in Madinah. They encircled the Jewish quarters of Al-Nadheer who retreated to their forts, awaiting support from Abdullah ibn Ubai and their coreligionists of the tribe of Quraythah. They armed themselves with arrows and other types of missiles in preparation for the forthcoming battle. All these events are recorded in the Qur'an, in surah 59 "The Exile". On the promise of the hypocrites, the surah states "Have you not seen the hypocrites? They say to their brethren who disbelieve among the people of earlier revelations: "If you are driven out, we will go with you. We will never obey anyone who seeks to harm you. If you are attacked we will certainly come to your support." Allah bears witness that they are liars. For indeed if they are driven out they will not go out with them, nor, if they are attacked, will they come to their support. Indeed, if they did help them they will turn their backs in flight and leave them to their fate." (59: 11-12)

This was surely the case. Al-Nadheer tribe waited for support, but support was long in coming. Neither their allies of Ghatafan, nor their coreligionists of Quraythah, nor their supporters, the hypocrites, did come to their help. They continued to be under siege and the situation was getting more and more difficult. The Prophet ordered that some of their palm date trees be burnt. When his command was carried out, the Jews sent him a message asking why he was doing this when he had always criticized those who did any similar action. The Qur'an makes it clear that this was sanctioned by Allah. We shall comment on this next week, Allah willing. The siege continued for twenty six days. The besieged Jews grew restless and scared. They sent to the Prophet that they were willing to evacuate under the original terms.

The Prophet answered their message stating that they could not have the same terms he originally offered them. Had they evacuated in peace they would have spared themselves any trouble. But the fact that they were willing to join forces with others against the Prophet and the Muslims meant that they would do the same whenever a new opportunity presented itself.

The Prophet, however, was keenly aware that any internal trouble or dispute is better resolved with speed and minimum bloodshed. The Muslims were never keen on fighting and shedding blood anyway. Since the Jews were prepared to leave, the Prophet was ready to let them go under new terms of evacuation. The new terms were that they would have safe conduct to leave Madinah with their women and children. Each of them could have a camel load of his belongings, but no arms were allowed to be carried with them. Their farms and lands were to be given up. Thus they carried whatever they could on their camels and took their women and children and left for Khaybar, a city of Jewish concentration in Arabia. Some of them went to Syria. Those of them who could not carry their homes with them, because they were immovable, destroyed their homes before leaving, so that the Muslims would not benefit of them. Allah states in the Qur'an: Their dwellings were destroyed by their own hands as well as by the believers. (59: 2)

Thus the encounter with the second Jewish tribe came to its conclusion. Muslims did not have to fight and no blood was shed. The position of the Muslims in Madinah was much stronger now that another Jewish tribe was evacuated and the hypocrites were seen to be very weak indeed. The Muslim state was considerably richer now with the lands and property gained from the Jews. But these new gains were subject to a different ruling from those that the Muslims gained in the battle of Badr. The difference arises from the fact that in Badr the Muslims had to fight a hard battle. This time, they were not called upon to fight at all. In this case, therefore, the Muslims' gain belonged to the Prophet, or to the Muslim state. He had full power to dispose of it in the way he wished. He, therefore, divided it among the Muhajireen, that is, his companions who emigrated with him from Makkah. The Ansar, the original residents of Madinah, did not have a share in them. We will comment on this as well as the other aspects of this encounter with the Jews next week, Allah willing.

This universe itself is proof of Allah's existence

By Adil Salahi

We have spoken about using our intellect in order to know Allah. We have also spoken about knowing Allah through His attributes. We pointed out that using our intellect and a proper consideration of Allah's attributes are the two methods which can lead us to faith and the formulation of a sound concept of Allah, the Creator who controls the universe and everything that exists in the universe.

Yet people who insist on rejecting religion or try, at best, to relegate it to a position of little importance, demand something more. They question us about the nature of Allah: what sort of being is He? and how does He exist? They assume the position of a person who throws a challenge. Unless we come up with an answer which they consider satisfactory they are justified, or so they argue, in rejecting the idea of religion altogether.

The fact that science has come to occupy a central position in our lives today tends to make people consider it as the final arbiter in all matters, whether they come within its sphere or not. Whatever answer we may give to such questions, as have been stated earlier, must be "scientific" in order to be acceptable. Such logic leads to make science a sort of an infallible deity.

But science is far from infallible. The fact that there is no such thing as an absolute scientific truth confirms our view. What is universally accepted today as scientifically correct might not have been accepted last year. It may even be proven wrong tomorrow. This is not unnatural for science. Many an assumption were accepted as absolutely correct and were then proven wrong as man's knowledge broadened. Besides, there are vast areas in our own existence which remain to scientists a closed book. Indeed, man's knowledge of himself is still very scanty.

We think, but how do we do that? What is involved in the process of thinking? How can we be absorbed in our thoughts to the extent we become totally unaware of everything taking place in front of us? And how do we sometimes think while keeping aware of what goes on around us? How can some people intensify their process of thinking so that they can maintain two intellectual processes at the same time, as happens in simultaneous translation? We cannot give any satisfactory answer to any one of these questions despite the remarkable progress by science. Yet, no one claims that our failure to provide such answers is enough cause for us to negate the fact that we think.

We walk, write and do physical exercises. But what is the nature of muscular action? Our will is not a material force. Indeed, all our characteristics are not material. But if one of us wants to lift his arm his will causes his arm to move upward. How does this happen? What is the catalyst which makes man's will produce physical result? No one can as yet answer such questions. Nor do we know how our eyes transmit to the brains the pictures and images of what we see. How does our brain function? No one can answer such a question.

Questions to which we still have no satisfactory answer are numerous. What is the nature of pain, tiredness, sleep and light? Our inability of giving satisfactory answers to such questions is by no means enough reason for

us to say that they do not exist. It is highly doubtful whether anyone wants to dispute their existence. This is because of the fact that we may not be able to conceive of the nature of something is not a reason to deny its existence.

If we accept this premise, then we should have no problem in accepting that it is first and foremost applicable to Allah. That we cannot explain the nature of Allah or conceive of His nature does not mean that He does not exist. Indeed He exists and is in full control of the universe. As in our other examples the existence of which is not a matter of dispute despite the fact that their natures remain incomprehensible to us, there is ample evidence which points to His existence. We have only to look at the vast universe around us which stretches out in distance to limits far beyond our imagination. When distances between stars and planets are measured in thousands of millions of light years, such distances no longer represent to us anything which belongs to the realm of matter. Yet they are distances between two material things. Indeed a light year is not something which is easily comprehensible. It represents a unit of measurement equal to six thousand billion miles or ten thousand billion kilometers. When we consider that there are over one hundred million galaxies in the universe and that the distance between one end of a galaxy and the other is not less than a hundred thousand light years, our minds stop thinking how vast the universe is. Can we logically assume that such a vast universe just happened to exist, by chance? When we consider that every creature on our small planet, the earth, is so complex as to testify to the greatness of its Maker, then the vast universe with all the creatures which inhabit it, simple and complex as they may be, could not have just happened without a rational will to determine their existence and to provide them with the conditions which are suitable for their survival.

What man has discovered recently about the atom should be enough evidence for him to turn to Allah and admit that He alone controls the universe. Our discoveries, with their enormous effect on our lives, represent only a very scanty part of our knowledge about a fraction of the universe. We have nothing to suggest to us that what we discover in our own world applies to everything else in the universe. Such a fine system as we have come to discover could not have just happened. There must be a power, a very great power, to design it and produce it.

What is much more important is the fact that we naturally and instinctively turn to Allah. We feel His existence and we seek Him and we try to have a well-formulated concept of Him. There are some people who attribute this natural tendency to our upbringing. We have only to consider that we can easily and radically rebel and reject values, concepts and traditions which were implanted in us by our upbringing without feeling a twinge of conscience for so doing, but we can do no such thing with our tendency to believe in Allah. Even the most ardent of atheists cannot escape the fact that deep inside him he feels a tendency to turn to Allah and seek His help. Man's experience, generally, tends to support this tendency and

enhance it. The fact is that in every person's experience there is enough evidence of Allah's power and direct control of life and the universe to make that person turn to Allah. If people then try to suppress such a tendency they only do so on the basis of their own arbitrary decision.

Another evidence of Allah's existence is the fact that those who truly believe in Him have wider knowledge and a higher standard of morals than their counterparts. They are also much kinder, more ready to sacrifice for the sake of others and are always willing to

help others. How do they achieve this? What is the force that directs their natural tendencies toward what is good, right, beautiful and perfect? The fact is that their faith in Allah gives them a power which elevates them to the highest standard of perfection.

In conclusion we say that we cannot give any answer to the question: What is the nature of Allah? We have, however, all around us indications and pointers which all converge to prove His existence and the fact that He controls our lives and the whole universe around us.

EVENTS OF ISLAMIC HISTORY 017AH

— The year began Friday, Jan. 23 638 C.E.

— The Hijri Calendar beginning with the emigration of the Holy Prophet (SAW.) from Makkah to Madinah was authorized by Caliph Umar Thursday the 20th Jamad II 17 AH (July 9, 638 C.E.)

— Umar performed Umrah in Rajab and stayed 20 days in Makkah appointing Zaid ibn Thabit as viceroys in Madinah.

— Caliph Umar renovated the Haram Mosque at Makkah and extended it by purchasing and adding the adjacent houses to it.

— He allowed the people to build houses on Makkah Madinah route with a condition shelter and water be provided to the pilgrims.

— New city of Kufa was planned and established. Saad ibn Waqqas shifted to Kufa which served as headquarters of the Eastern Command.

— Abu Musa Al-Ashari was appointed governor of Basrah, he held this post for 12 years. Abu Maryam Al-Hanafi was the chief justice of Basrah.

— Alwan and Soos were conquered. Persian ruler Hormuz was defeated by Noman ibn Munir. He came to Madinah and accepted Islam at the hands of Caliph Umar.

— Armenia was conquered by Ayaz ibn Ghazwan and a peace treaty was signed.

— Caliph Umar married Um Kulthum, the daughter of Fatima and Ali ibn Abi Taleb.

— Abu Tariq Hijazi

Did the Prophet kill?

Q. I read in your "Life of the Prophet -90" (Dec. 24, 1982) that during the battle of Uhud a man called Ubai ibn Khalaf dashed toward the Prophet, but the Prophet aimed his spear at his shoulder, and the man died on his way back to Makkah. How true is this? I was made to understand by an Islamic professor that the Prophet had not killed any person. I would be grateful if you could elaborate on this.

A. Gappal P.O. Box 1914 Riyadh

A. Almost all books of reference on the life of the Prophet record this incident as we have reported it. They make it clear that the Prophet was informed just before the battle that Ubai ibn Khalaf had threatened to kill him. His answer was: "It is I who will kill him, Allah willing." When the Muslims were attacked from behind and were overtaken by confusion, hesitation and surprise, the Prophet was left alone with only a few of his companions who withstood a determined attack aiming at the Prophet himself. Ubai ibn Khalaf dashed toward him and the Prophet aimed his spear at a weak point in Ubai's armor, hitting him in his shoulder. Ubai fell down, and although he was not bleeding he was snoring like a bull. Some of his fellow soldiers carried him and asked him why he was snoring so loudly when his injury was of no consequence. He told them: "Has he not said he will kill me? I swear that if he had said on me he would have killed me." Then he died on the way back.

We should not be concerned over this incident a great deal. After all, Ubai ibn Khalaf

wanted to kill the Prophet. To kill an unbeliever in a war started by unbelievers is certainly something legitimate. We do not question the fact that the most prominent of the Prophet's companions did kill some unbelievers in battle. Indeed we praise them for doing so. Why should we worry over the fact that the Prophet himself killed one person who was trying to kill him? If killing an unbeliever in a war like that of Uhud was not to be condoned then the whole idea of fighting the enemies of Islam would not be condoned. If we take such an attitude, then we are passing a judgment on what Allah has chosen to be a religion acceptable to Him. We should be careful because then we would be trying to force Islam out of its true character.

Which Imam?

Q.1. Many people look at their absence from a country like Saudi Arabia to be a license to get involved in all sorts of forbidden practices, such as drinking, dancing, adultery, etc. At the same time, such persons do not hesitate to come forward to lead congregational prayers. Would it be preferable to join a congregational prayer led by such a person, or is it better to pray alone?

Q.2. I have noticed that some people chew or suck their own blood when they are injured. How far is this correct?

K.R. Ahmed P.O. Box 4829 Jeddah

A. 1. It is always better to pray in congregation, even when one knows for certain that the imam gets involved in forbidden practices. The Prophet has stressed that we should never hesitate to join a congregational prayer on account of our knowledge of the practice

of the imam. The fact is that we can never be certain that a person who was carried away in fulfillment of a sinful desire has not repented afterward. It is a principle of Islam that a person who has repented and sincerely asked Allah to forgive him his sins is considered on the same footing as a person who has not sinned at all.

Another important point is that people cannot sit in judgment of one another. If it is left to the individual to say "this person is not suitable to lead prayers and that one must not lead prayers" or "prayers behind this imam are not acceptable," etc., this could lead to dangerous chaos within the ranks of the community. The fact is that each individual is responsible for his or her own actions. We are not accountable for others. Similarly, we cannot judge them. Allah has taken it upon Himself to judge people on the basis of His own perfect and complete knowledge of every individual.

Our prayers behind an imam who may have committed the most grievous of sins, apart from blatant blasphemy, is perfectly acceptable and not affected in any way by the imam's own sins. The Prophet says: Pray behind any imam, be he pious and God-fearing or a confirmed sinner.

Having said that, I have a word to add for the benefit of any person who leads prayers. One must always remember that one should never lead the prayers if the worshippers who join him do not like him to be their imam. The Prophet warns us: Any person who leads a group of worshippers who dislike the fact that he is their imam, his prayers will not travel any further than his own ears.

A. 2. Blood is impure and should never be

chewed or sucked. It is, however, useful to let blood run if one's finger is cut. To let blood run may require that one squeezes the area of one's finger which is cut in between one's teeth. It is preferable then to wash one's mouth so that no traces of blood are swallowed.

Practices of pilgrimage

Q. During pilgrimage, a friend of mine shaved his head before offering his sacrifice. Is this acceptable?

C.M. Ahmed Haji Nadirah Saudi Ltd. P.O. Box 517 Ras Tanura

A. The four duties required of a pilgrim on the tenth of Thul-Hajjah are: throwing the stones at Jamarah, offering the sacrifice, Tawaf at the Ka'abah and removal or shortening of one's hair. The weightier opinion is that a pilgrim need not follow any particular order while offering these actions. This is due to the fact that when the Prophet offered his pilgrimage, people came and asked him about all sorts of permutations in the ordering of these actions. In all these cases the order suggested was approved by him.

Private answers

To Mrs. F. Robels.

Please forward to us your address as we have something important to convey to you. To M.A. Saleh, Makkah, and U. Muhammad, Jeddah.

Your suggestion is being considered by the Editor in Chief and we will act on his advice.

By John Crasto
Special to Arab News

BOMBAY, Feb. 17 — Oriental omnipotence in badminton is underlined today. No other nation, not any European force, comes to stay. Men like Han Jian



Ick Suk Sugarto ... Indonesian hope

Chinese tower over rest in shuttle power

With wind of 'Open' tourneys blowing strongly in the West

and Luan Jin, women like Zhang Ailing and Li Lingwei are superstars. They may well make badminton rival its exciting cousin tennis in the professional set-up if the world accepts the challenge China offers today.

Asia has wrested stranglehold in this game slowly but surely gaining popularity the world over. The West has opted for Open badminton which will certainly change the destiny of the sport. Big money will flow in provided the monopoly is not fixed with one country. Whether any one of them, Morten Frost Hansen or Prakash Padukone, Liem Swie King or Ick Sugarto can produce performances to beat the best of China then badminton will get its biggest fillip.

Han Jian is the great retriever. When Prakash Padukone twice humbled the China No. 1 the world felt that Chinese invincibility was a myth. But Han Jian, the epitome of fitness and implacability, has grown in stature recently with his Asian Games victories over Liem Swie King. All are waiting for the All-England Championships. Will Morten Frost Hansen be the best again? The Wembley event is still considered the world's premier platform, the crown there means more than the prize money.

Indonesia were well and truly humbled in the Asian Games at New Delhi. It would have been a slap in the face for them but for Ick Sugarto's performances. The 20-year-old, musclebound bankman has a long

way to go. He has shown that he can be a worldbeater because he has both craft and power. His win over Luan Jin, the All-England finalist, salvaged much prestige in the Asian team championship. His triumph with Christian Hadinata has thrown up a new Indonesian combine so full of fire. And for Indonesia there could be no greater boost than another singles champion to keep their tradition of monopolizing the men's singles crown through the years. Rudy Hartono was their shining star. Liem Swie was a king worthy of that crown. They need another super champion to keep their flag flying high in world badminton.

Liem Swie King is past his prime. Lius Pongoh is laboring with personal problems. Only Ick Sugarto is the answer. His triumph in singles in the Indian Masters, his recent title-win in the Taipei Open underlines that he could be the new force, the dynamic fusion of youth and skill forming a devastating compound for a surge to glory.

Zhang Ailing and Li Lingwei are formidable figures on the women's front. They were All-England and Asian Games finalists, they seem much to impregnable except to other Chinese women like Xu Rong and Zheng Yuli both of whom are extremely

competent. South Korea's Sun Ai Hwang, the 1981 All-England champion, has not lived up to the promise she offered then. She has shifted to the doubles for which her compact build is more suitable for. Japan's Sumiko Kitada too is not all that distinctive class and Indonesia's Ivana Lie has fallen off despite being the most agile figure on the court.

Denmark's Lene Koppen, probably the world's most graceful player, is finding the competition too stiff. Her days of glory are over. It is difficult to look beyond the Chinese because the only other hope are the Englishwomen. Jane Webster is tenacious, she has devastating backhand force. But neither she nor Sally Podger could hold a candle to the Chinese girls. Whether that Danish Amazon Kirsten Larsen could do the trick is anybody's guess. She has won the Taipei Open. The Danish star is the hope of Europe.

Chinese invincibility on the women's front seems unsurpassable. But not so in the men's world. Truly Ick Sugarto could be a thorn in the Chinese side. But he has to make a difficult choice. To restrict his concentration to the doubles or to dabble in singles play as well. That he is a potent force

in the paired events was amply evident by his triumph in the Asian men's doubles final. The narrow defeat in the mixed doubles final with young Ruth Danyanti as his partner against the Chinese pair of Ximing Yao and Zhang Ailing only emphasized his strength of arm and tremendous skill. If he does opt for the singles then Indonesia may have a new star.

India's two outstanding singles players, Prakash Padukone and Syed Modi, are the finest exponents of strokeplay. But power deficiency is their failing. Prakash is still among the first six in the world but he is much too vulnerable, he is chary of using force even when the opportunity presents itself. But Syed Modi is slowly developing aggression. His Commonwealth Games triumph and a semifinalist at the Asian indicate that he has the stuff to be in top ranks. But he has to learn to face power bursts inasmuch as he must dole it out in equal measure. He was thrashed by Han Jian, whom only a year ago he had full extended. That Asian defeat underlined the need for Modi to have more pressure training.

The Sidek brothers of Malaysia caused a sensation at the All-England last year by winning the men's doubles crown. Jalani and Razif made a great pair even without their controversial spin service to assist them. They will have the South Koreans — champions in the Asian — to challenge them this time. Mishun too is a fine singles player. Not much has been seen of him in

recent days on account of injuries. He is probably looking forward to the All-England after his long lay-off.

The Grand Prix circuit in badminton has generated a new awareness. Full houses and big sponsorships are boosting the game tremendously.



Luan Jin ... bastion of China

In Memphis tourney

Wilander, Denton fall by the wayside

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb. 17 (AP) — Fritz Buehning powered his way Wednesday night to a 7-5, 7-5, second-round upset over second-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden in the \$15,000 U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships.

Earlier in the day, American Mike Depalmer scored the biggest victory of his four-month professional career by ousting seventh-seeded Steve Denton 6-4, 6-3 and advancing to a third-round meeting against Australian Paul McNamee at the Racquet Club of Memphis.

Yannick Noah of France, seeded fourth in the 64-man draw, also advanced to the third round, battling his way past Mark Dickson 7-6, 6-3. However, Noah took a cortisone injection for tendinitis in his left leg after the match said it is not known if he would be able to continue in the tourney. In the night's final match No. 3 Gene Mayer beat compatriot Eddie Dibbs 6-3, 6-2 to earn a match against French youngster Henri Leconte.

In other early matches, ninth-seeded Buster Mottram of Britain eliminated Terry Moor 6-4, 6-2. No. 8 Elliot Teltscher ousted Tony Grimsby 6-3, 7-6. No. 10 Brian Gottfried stopped Guy Forget of France 7-5, 6-8. No. 11 Brian Teacher defeated Sweden's Anders Jarryd 6-3, 6-4, and No. 15 Raul Ramirez of Mexico downed Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 6-2, 6-4.

Depalmer broke out on top, breaking

Denton in the second game of the opening set. Denton then pulled even in the seventh game, but Depalmer broke his foe again in the eighth. In the second set, Depalmer grabbed the only service break when he broke Denton in the eighth game.

Meanwhile, Peter Bastiansen of Denmark upset Ilie Nastase of Romania 7-5, 7-6 in the first round of the \$88,000 Grand Prix Tennis Tournament here.

The tall 20-year-old Dane, using an effective two-handed backhand, moved the veteran Nastase all over the court and wore him out quickly in Tuesday night's match. Bastiansen finished his rival by winning the second-set tiebreaker 8-6.

Bastiansen, a member of his country's Davis Cup team, had to win three qualifying matches to get into the 32-man singles competition, which opened Monday at the Union Club in this Pacific Coastal resort of Vina Del Mar, Chile.

He advanced to a second-round contest against top-seeded Hans Gildemeister of Chile, who defeated countryman Belus Prajoux 6-2, 6-4. In other matches, Damiir Keretic of West Germany beat Ivan Camus of Chile 6-3, 6-3. Marcel Freeman of the U.S. beat Richard Cano of Argentina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Alejandro Gattiker of Argentina beat Rocky Rogers of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4.

In Chicago, Andrea Jaeger used an impressive array of ground strokes to fashion a 6-1,

6-2 victory over Czech Helena Sukova Wednesday and led two other seeded players into the quarterfinal round of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Chicago Tournament.

Jaeger, the No. 2 seed, had defeated Sukova in their only previous meeting. She used breaks in the first, third and final games of the 40-minute opening set. In the evening's final match, Australian Wendy Turnbull, the No. 5 seed, defeated Candy Reynolds after the American retired down a set (6-3) and behind 2-3 in the second set. Reynolds appeared to aggravate a thigh injury but left the court under her own power.

Earlier in the day, No. 7 seed Bettina Bunge needed just 50 minutes to retire South African Rosalyn Fairbank 6-2, 6-0. Unseeded Marcela Mesker of the Netherlands also gained the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over Britain's Jo Durie.

Bunge, a West German native playing out of Coral Gables, Florida, lost her opening serve of the match, but broke in the fourth game to pull even at 2-2 and then won the next 10 games to close out the match. She had been seeded No. 8, but was moved up when Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia was forced to withdraw because of an injury.

Advancing into the second round Wednesday was Czech Iva Budarova, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Andrea Temesvari of Hungary, and Anne Smith, who bested England's Anne Hobbs 6-4, 6-2.



Holmes... faces another challenge

'Heavy' treat in the offing

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Feb. 17 (AP) — The two world heavyweight champions, Larry Holmes and Michael Dokes, will both defend their crowns at the same boxing meeting, promoter Don King said here late Wednesday.

King is expected to announce an opponent for Holmes, the World Boxing Council (WBC) titleholder. It is already known that World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Dokes will meet another American, Mike Weaver.

Jamaica to rest Holding against Indians

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 17 (Agencies) — Michael Holding, the fast bowler who will lead the West Indies attack in the forthcoming Test series, has been omitted from Jamaica's team to take on the touring Indian cricket team in the first match starting here Thursday.

Holding, regarded by many as the fastest bowler in the game, is being rested by the Jamaican selectors in preparation for the first Test match starting here next week.

The Jamaicans have already been weakened by the defection of five of their best players on the rebel West Indies tour of South Africa and are bottom of the Shell Shield table at present. They should not provide the Indians with too many problems.

Kapil Dev, the dynamic 24-year-old allrounder who has taken over the Indian captaincy from opening batsman Sunil

Gavaskar after the recent, ill-fated tour of Pakistan, said all his players were in quite fine shape.

Indian squad from: Kapil Dev (captain), Goekwad, Arun Lal, M. Amarnath, Yashpal Sharma, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ashok Malhotra, Ravi Shastri, Syed Kirmani, Venkatraghavan, Sandhu, Sivaramakrishnan.

Meanwhile, four newcomers have been included in a squad of 15 from which the final team for the first Test match against India will be chosen. The Test starts at Sabina Park here next Wednesday. Two of the new players are batsmen, Augustine Logie, 22, who toured Australia with the West Indies in 1981-82 without playing a Test, and left-hander Thelston Payne, 26, a Barbadian who has forced his way into the reckoning this season with a succession of high scores in local Shell Shield competition, including three centuries.

So near, yet so far for Peeters

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (AP) — Boston goalie Pete Peeters left in a long slipshot 12 minutes into the game and lost his bid to tie the National Hockey League record for straight games without a loss as the Buffalo Sabres edged the Bruins 3-1 Wednesday night.

Peeters entered the game unbeaten in his last 31 starts — 26-0-5. The record of 32 straight games without a loss is held by Peeters' coach, Gerry Cheevers.

Elsewhere in the NHL, Barry Beck's 60-foot slap shot broke a 2-2 tie early in the third period, lifting the New York Rangers to a 5-4 decision over the Washington Capitals.

In two other actions, the Toronto Maple Leafs trounced the St. Louis Blues 6-3, while the Chicago Black Hawks flew past the Calgary Flames 5-3. The Black Hawks scored three unanswered goals in the third period.

Saudia Blues blot Dunes' pad

JEDDAH, Feb. 17 — Dunes' fluent run of success was brought to an abrupt halt in the fifth week of the Jeddah Bridge League, leaving Paklad White, who beat Oldies 12-8, as the only unbeaten team in the league.

And the team to inflict the defeat on Dunes were former champions Saudia Blues. Showing some of their old flair, Saudia Blues routed Dunes, who also surrendered their position at the top to Paklad White, 15-5. This victory coupled with their 17-3 romp against lowly Marbella hauled Saudia Blues from the ninth spot to the fifth in the league standings.

Paklad White now have to maintain their unbeaten streak if they hope to become the first team to win the league pennant two times in a row. Dunes, with this loss, by no means have been put out of the reckoning for the title. The Victory Points between the top

The others are hostile fast bowler Winston Davis of the Windward Islands and 19-year-old Roger Harper, a tall spin bowler who was captain of the West Indies youth team in England last year.

The squad includes fast bowler Joel Garner and batsman Larry Gomes despite the fact that they both failed to meet a West Indies cricket board requirement that they play at least one Shell Shield match prior to the first Test. They have both been playing professionally in Australia and only recently returned Star batsman Vivian Richards will undergo a fitness test for a broken thumb before the Test.

The 15 named are: Clive Lloyd (captain), Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Vivian Richards, Augustine Logie, Faoud Bacchus, Larry Gomes, Thelston Payne, Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall, Jeff Dujon, Winston Davis, Roger Harper and Joel Garner.

Dunes' pad

two teams is so close that one slip by Paklad White would enable Dunes to bridge the gap.

In other matches, KALIA improved their standing by beating Gray Mackenzie 12-8, SSS won 13-7 against Vikings, and new team GP 4 who are seeking their maiden victory, lost out yet another close tussle. This time they went down 9-11 to Saudia Greens.

How they stand

| | P | W | D | L | Vpts | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|------|-----|
| Paklad W | 5 | 5 | — | — | 73 | 10 |
| Dunes | 6 | 5 | — | — | 183 | 10 |
| Saudia G | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 65 | 8 |
| SSS | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 58 | 7 |
| Saudia B | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 74 | 7 |
| Paklad G | 5 | 2 | — | 2 | 57 | 6 |
| Vikings | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 51 | 5 |
| KALIA | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 46 | 5 |
| Oldies | 6 | 2 | — | 4 | 42 | 4 |
| Gray Mac | 6 | 2 | — | 4 | 47 | 4 |
| Marbella | 6 | 1 | — | 5 | 29 | 2 |
| GP4 | 5 | — | — | 5 | 35 | 0 |

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Dog Detective Ranjha

⑧ Case of the hidden earring

By Partap Sharma

The tree in which I found the hidden earring grew in the grounds of the Missionary's Bungalow. I was merely poking about as any tracker dog might when I was struck by the strong smell of soap coming from the knot-hole of a tree. It was a quite ordinary tree but the soapy smell was extraordinary. And it was not the smell of toilet soap either; it was the smell of a washing powder used for cleaning clothes. As I caught the unexpected odor I could almost see the flakes dissolving and foaming in a bucket of water.

I put my nose into the knot-hole and took out the earring. Woof gasped. The three large emeralds glittered on their background of gold.

Woof took the earring from me and said, "Let's return it."

As I set off, tracking free, with my nose to the ground, I knew Woof was thinking, as I was, that it was a funny place in which to find an earring. What was perhaps even funnier was that it wasn't a pair earrings but just one. How had it come to be there?

The Missionary's Bungalow was a gaunt, deserted house. We had never seen a missionary there yet but then perhaps that was just an old name for the crumbling ruin. Mahabaleshwar is full of such places — solitary uncared for, almost forgotten. I often heard Woof asking passing villagers about these neglected bungalows scattered like milestones of history amid the jungle, but no one could tell us more than that sometimes their owners would come from the cities on a short holiday and camp in those cold, unfurnished rooms only to return to the city in disgust and there sell the structure to some other person who would rarely come.

For a moment I wondered what we would do if the scent led us to the Missionary's Bungalow for I knew there was no one there now. The trail was two days old.

But we went on past the bungalow and down a path leading to some huts. Had we been moving merely instinctively we might have rushed straight into that cluster of huts and asked about for the owner of the earring. We were, however, following a definite trail and the scent led off to the right. Behind me Woof stopped in puzzlement. I had sniffed my way off the path now and was inching up the hill into the woods.

I could understand Woof's puzzlement. After all, there was a road going round the woods. Why hadn't the person we were following taken the open road. Even the little paths that criss-crossed the jungle had been avoided. It was almost as if the earring had been deposited there in stealth; the person had been to the tree and then slipped away through the jungle like a thief.

It is difficult for me to stop and think once I am set on the trail of something or someone. I gave my short, impatient call which is half howl, half moan. Woof saw that my tail was curving up and my hair bristling in excitement; he understood that I was on the track. Human beings sometimes need to be reassured that you are not misleading them. With a shrug and a shake of his head, Woof followed.

We made our way through bramble and fern and past bushes of the yellow wild-flower known in these parts as *dingler*. Every now and again, Woof called out to me to wait for him. Tracking free, without the restraint of a harness, I was moving fast and well ahead. The scent was strong and getting stronger for here, in the woods, the wind had not blown it away and the sun had not been able to reach in and destroy it. There was a stale, rotting touch to it, of course; to me it was as clear as the odor of a bad egg in a windless room.

Then we were out in a clearing and going down a slight incline and crossing a road. The road, the incline, the clearing — all seemed familiar to me and yet, for the moment, I could not place them. I tried not to think of where we were, my job was to concentrate on the tracking. Now the smell had developed a fresher, sweeter overtone. I recognized it as an attar, a kind of cloying perfume. This particular attar was obviously an extract of roses. It was heady and overpowering. It flowed up my nose and blossomed like roses in my nostrils. I sneezed, shook my head clear and rubbed at my muzzle with a paw. Woof began to wonder if I was getting a cold!

Under the smell of roses lay the smell of soap and body odor. And covering it all like a wrapper over a toffee was the smell of wood-smoke. So it was clear that the person I was tracking used perfume, washed

clothes and cooked over a wood-fire. And considering that I had taken the scent from an earring, it was fairly obvious that I was trailing a woman. The body odor, too, confirmed this. For men and women smell different from each other. But, of course, Woof had no way yet of knowing all this.

We were now crossing an unkempt, untidy grass verge and heading toward a hut. I looked up now and saw that we were in the large compound of a bungalow. The hut stood at the end of the compound.

It was unnecessary now to keep my nose to the ground-scent. For the body-scent was like a canal of honey in the air. I kept my head up and into it, pulled along like a paper boat by a current.

Tracking can be so enjoyable that a dog loses himself in the delicious symphony of smells as they grow clearer and engulf him in a cloud of ecstasy. That is what happened to me. Foolish as it may seem, I rushed on in my enthusiasm past the woman who had stepped out of the hut and was now hanging clothes out to dry on a line.

Suddenly I realized I had overshot the source of the scent. I turned round, feeling quite silly. I went up to the thin, tired-looking, sari-clad woman and gently held her wrist in my mouth. Then I stepped back a pace and barked. Woof came up to the woman and held out the earring to her.

Instead of being delighted and thankful, she gasped and went white as a sheet. Woof smiled and took another step forward but she withdrew, trembling, and dropped the clothes she was holding. One of her hands went to her mouth and it seemed as though she was trying to stop herself from screaming. In a second she was perspiring and there was a terrible smell of fear in the air.

Woof mistook her reaction for surprise. He said kindly, "We found it in a tree by the Missionary's Bungalow."

"No, no, no!" she cried. "I didn't put it there. I don't know anything about it!"

Woof was taken aback. He looked at me, barked at the woman. I knew for certain that it was she who had hidden the earring there. But I could see that Woof was more inclined to believe a human being than a dog. He seemed disappointed in me as if I had made some mistake!

At this point a tall villager dressed in a Gandhi cap and clean white clothes appeared at the door of the hut. The woman ran to him breathlessly and said, pointing at Woof, "Look! He's got that lady's earring. He says I hid it in some tree. He's accusing me!"

The man took a couple of steps toward Woof and looked down at him with his head cocked slightly to one side. He spoke in a nasty tone.

"Who're you?" he asked.

Woof had by now sensed that something was wrong. He realized that the earring in his hand was a stolen one. The woman recognized it but wished to deny all knowledge of how it came to be in the knot-hole of a tree.

Woof said, "Never mind who I am. Take me to the owner of this earring."

The tall man looked at the woman. Then he looked at me. Turning to Woof, he asked, "Is that a police dog?"

"No," Woof said, "but he's trained like one. He tracked this woman here. She stole the earring. I think and hid it in the tree."

"Look, mister," the man said, "you are not a policeman to be going around accusing people. I happen to be the *patil*, the headman, of Mangli village down in the valley. I am appointed by the police. I know the law and I know who is a thief and who is not. This woman is my wife. Your dog has no business to go about chasing innocent people. Such a dog is a danger and a nuisance. He should be shot. Now give me the earring and I shall return it to its owner."

"No," said Woof. "I'll take it back to the owner myself."

"I am not a man to be trifled with," the tall fellow said, removing his cap and dusting it forcefully against one hand.

The slapping sound irritated me. It was a threat of violence. He was that kind of man. I growled.

The village headman put the cap back on his head, turned on his heel and went into the hut.

Woof sighed and motioned me to his side began to walk away.

The woman called something to the man and now he came back to the door of his hut. In his hand was a double-barrelled gun.

"Hey you!" the man shouted. "Where're you going?"

Woof turned round.



"To the police," he said.

"No," said the man, "you are not. I say you are not."

I could see that the sight of the gun had not only shocked and frightened Woof, it had also made him angry.

"Surely," Woof said in an incredulous voice, "you don't intend to use that silly thing simply because I am going to the police with a stolen earring!"

"This silly thing," the headman said sarcastically, "is a loaded twelve-bore. It helps me keep peace in the village. It also enables me to hunt rabbits. But today I could use it to destroy a dangerous dog and recover a stolen earring from his master."

Woof gave a little laugh.

"No one will believe you," he said.

"You won't be around to worry about that," the man replied, "and I have ways of making people believe me. You know what I think? I think you are trying to frame my wife. I think you are accusing her falsely in order to ruin my family name. This is a trick of my enemies. They have got you to do this for them. Perhaps you are innocent of mischief. I grant that. Perhaps you have been misled. You don't look the kind of person to get involved in the politics of a little local village. But who knows? The world is full of strange people. You may be a member of some political party that's trying to gain control of the area. You may be helping some people to dislodge me from my position as the village headman."

Woof was aghast. "You must be crazy!" he said.

The man nodded. "Maybe I am. Maybe I'm clever. Maybe I'm anything. Just give me the earring and get out of here. You're a young man. Don't mess up your life by poking your nose into other people's business."

"Be reasonable," Woof said with an attempt at a smile. "The dog and I happened to find a piece of jewelry and we want only to do the right thing by returning it to the owner."

The man cocked both barrels of his gun and muttered, "I've told you—just give it to me and get out."

His eyes had gone red and he was again looking at us sideways across his hawklike nose. The woman clung to one of his arms but he now shrugged her aside and raised the gun. It pointed at me.

"All right," Woof said. "Here you are, take the earring."

But the man was no fool. He jerked his head and said, "Throw it at my feet."

Woof hesitated. Then he said, "No, one of the emeralds is loose. It'll fall out."

"Never mind, said the man. "If the stone falls out, we'll find it."

"As you wish," Woof said and threw the earring at his feet. The man did not even look down.

"Now, I want you to—" he began but before he could say more Woof pointed to a spot near his feet.

"By the way," Woof said, "is that a snake crawling into your hut?"

There are snakes in Mahabaleshwar but the poisonous kinds are rare. Nevertheless, people have to be careful, especially in the rainy season and soon after. And snakes sometimes do crawl into huts.

The man shifted on his feet and quickly looked down.

"Ranjha, disarm!" Woof shouted and rushed forward.

(To be continued next Friday)



Marriage customs of the East

By Najma Saleem

KARACHI — The institution of marriage presents a wide variety of rites and customs in every society and among every people. The more primitive a people, the more exotic the customs; but even in advanced societies where people have otherwise developed their social and cultural institutions, the marriage customs continue to be observed in the traditional style.

In Pakistan, as in India or some other parts of South Asia, marriages are usually arranged by the parents of both the boy and the girl well in advance, but in most cases the couple remains complete stranger to one another until after the wedding. The betrothed couple, thus, await their wedding day with throbbing hearts, having never set eyes on one another, and their minds continue picturing the images of their partners-in-life with a halo of love and romance. Even correspondence between the betrothed couple is tabooed. Therefore, love actually begins after the wedding, but strangely enough, such marriages prove successful in most cases. Divorces are rare as compared to the percentage of broken marriages in Western countries. In fact, a divorce is considered to be something highly undesirable in Pakistani society and recourse to legal redress is taken only in extremely serious cases.

Innumerable rites and ceremonies take place in connection with the marriage starting with the betrothal ceremony; but before this, negotiations are made through a matchmaker or a common friend, or a relative of the two families. The girl's parents allow the female members of the prospective groom, or any of his near relations to see her, but the young man himself is not allowed to meet or see her at any stage until after actual wedding. Similarly, the parents or relations of the girl can call on the parents of the boy to see the bridegroom-to-be.

In modern society, especially among the upper class families, which are more Westernized in outlook, the rigidity of this custom has, however, been relaxed to some extent, and it is possible now for a young man to see his bride-to-be before the betrothal ceremony.

After the terms of *Mehr* — a guarantee for the economic security of the wife — are settled by the parties, a day is fixed for the betrothal ceremony. On that day, a small group of seven or more women, including the mother or any other lady authorized on behalf of the bridegroom-to-be, go to the house of the would-be bride, and place a silk stole over her head and slip a gold ring on the second finger of her right hand. This is followed by a similar group of the would-be bride's family members going to the house of the would-be groom, along with her mother or guardian who puts a ring on the finger of the groom. The betrothal is, thus, formally announced, and the occasion is celebrated by the exchange of sweets and fine dresses for the would-be bride and groom between the two families.

Three days before the wedding, the all-absorbing activity begins in the houses of both bride and the groom. The latter's mother sends a special dress and some pieces of jewelry to the house of the bride in a picturesque procession. The female members of the bride's family meet on the occasion and amidst all festivity and merriment, she is given a treatment of the *Mendhi*.

Mendhi is actually a thin paste of the dried *henna* leaves, which is applied to the palms of the hands and the fingertips of the bride, and thereafter by all other ladies present on the occasion. The bridegroom's mother and close family relatives apply the *henna* paste on the bride's hands, and this ceremony sets the festivities of marriage on both sides for the coming three days.

The next day, or the day after, the bride's mother, along with her relations, goes to the house of the groom to give him a set of clothes and also apply *henna* similarly to him; but here the younger sister or the sister-in-law of the bride usually applies *henna* to the little finger of the groom's right hand, amidst a good deal of fun and frolic.

Finally, on the day following the *Mendhi* celebrations at the groom's house, the wedding takes place. On that day, all members of the groom's family, along with their relations and friends collect at his house where, after a ceremonial bath, the bridegroom is "prepared for the wedding. The dress of the bridegroom has to be rich and gorgeous, sometimes made of *Zari* (golden cloth), and for the headgear a silk turban with gold lace is considered essential for the occasion. The



SIGNING THE CERTIFICATE: With his face covered with flowers and gold lace, the bridegroom signs the marriage certificate.

bridegroom is also heavily garlanded with fresh flowers, and at times even for the face, a *Sekra* — gold threads woven with fresh flowers — is tied around his headgear. The *Sekra* actually serves as a heavy veil of strings of flowers to hide the face of the bridegroom against evil eyes.

In this way, the groom is led in a procession to the bride's house, either on horseback, or nowadays in a shiny limousine, also tastefully decked with flowers and tinsels. The wedding procession consists of the father, the family members, relations and friends of the groom, followed by the bride's trousseau, with the accompaniment of a pipe or brass-band, playing gay tunes.

On reaching the bride's house, the father of the bride and other distinguished elder members of her family receive the bridegroom and members of the wedding party at the entrance to the wedding hall, and after seating him at a place of honor — usually a dais decorated for the occasion — commence the religious rites of the marriage.

The ceremony is performed by a *Qazi*, or a conductor of weddings, who first of all gets the assent of the bride before commencing the *Nikah* or the marriage sermon. This is followed by similar assent of the groom before the witnesses. Thereafter, the *Mehr*, the dowry, and the pocket money of the bride are settled between the parties in the presence of the *Qazi* who draws a regular marriage deed and gets the signatures of the bride and the groom. Having completed these formalities, the *Qazi* recites a special *Nikah* (marriage) sermon, and the bridegroom and the bride are formally declared man and wife in accordance with the Islamic Law.

After completion of the wedding ceremony, sweets are distributed among every one present on the occasion. This is followed by a grand dinner or lunch given by the bride's people. A little later, the groom is led into the *Zemana* by two members of the bride's family. This is the occasion when the bridegroom meets the bride for the first time. It is a most picturesque ceremony, known as *Arsi Mus-haf*, which usually takes place late in the evening. The bride, dressed and made-up like a fairy queen, is seated, heavily veiled, on an embroidered *masnad* (cushion) in the center of a room. Her younger sister, or a near relation leads the bridegroom into the room and is made to sit on the cushion facing the bride. A mirror is then placed on the cushion between them. Thereafter, a large sheet of silk or colored cloth is thrown over their heads and a copy of the *Qur'an* handed over to the bridegroom to read certain verses from it. After he has done that, the groom is asked to look at the image of the bride's face reflected in the mirror, while both are still hidden under the sheet.

While the bridegroom gets the first glimpse of the bride's face reflected through the mirror, the ladies present around the couple sing and laugh and tease the bridegroom and his sisters and cousins. After he has seen the bride's face, the groom slips a ring on her first finger and removes the veil from his own head and face. Then in a silver tray he is

offered some sweets which he has to share with the bride, sitting at the same place.

After this ceremony, the most touching moment of the ceremony draws near. This is the occasion when the bride is finally prepared to bid farewell to her parents and accompany the bridegroom to his house. At this moment, the bride's father and brothers are called to give away the bride to the groom.

All the mirth and gaiety of the occasion suddenly subsides and takes a serene look. The bride, as she is led to the *palanquin*, or the limousine, breaks down and along with her all those present also dissolve in tears. Even the hand plays the sad, soft tunes of separation from the parents and her sweet home.

This is something which a foreign reader may perhaps fail to understand, but that has always been a part of the bridal ceremonies in this subcontinent. It is an occasion which signifies the doubts and fears of the bride and her people who have to part with her and hand her over to a complete stranger for the rest of her life. They feel her departure with all these apprehensions and are anxious about her future wellbeing.

It may seem to be an entirely sentimental or emotional act on the part of these people in today's world, but in a society where marriages take place without the usual spell of courtship, without the boy even meeting the girl at any stage before the wedding, the father and the parents of the bride have to rely on the basic quality of man, depending more on the strength of their own conviction and their faith in the Almighty. Their prayers on such touching moments appear to be answered in the same manner today as those of the millions of people during the past thousands of years whose children and grand-children have enjoyed the happiness of married life in this part of the world.



ARRIVAL: The bridegroom arrives at the bride's house in a procession.

The art of making French pastries

By Shahid Orakzai
Alkhorbar Bureau

ALKHOBAR — If you enter Cafe de Paris of Gulf Meridian Monday mornings around 10 you will find yourself in a class room. Female visitors can just pull up a chair and join the group of ladies watching chef Jean Pierre Grosjean performing his art, the art of making eye flatterer French pastries.

The six-week course started Monday with the inaugural presentation attracting about two dozen women, mostly American. The man behind this event is Michel Isidore who has recently taken over as Gulf Meridian's sales manager and is seeking greater involvement of local residents with his hotel. "We thought of giving the ladies an activity," remarked Isidore. But the effort will pay in the long run especially in boosting outdoor catering in an area where people have had little French cuisine to taste.

Guided by Grosjean, Meridian's Pastry Service was rated as the best of the hotel's different services during the past three months which earned the young French chef a financial reward and a letter of appreciation from General Manager Dick Frings. Grosjean brought life to pastry service when he returned last year after training at Meridian Paris.

In the presentation of baking and decorating "Seven Fruits Tart", Grosjean kept no cooking secrets from his students showing them the ingredients, their color and shape in

various stages of production.

There were not many questions about the baking process but some students did inquire about the method to get the ingredients and were advised by colleagues who had spotted them in supermarket racks. The baking class

time, about one hour, allows participants to make friends and learn cookery from each other or have a look at blue Gulf water since no other building in the area offers such a beautiful view of the Arabian Gulf with Bahrain in the skyline.

Seven fruits tart

Baking Time: About 1 hour
Portions: 8

INGREDIENTS For Sugar paste

Butter 110g
Caster sugar 25g
Egg 2
Almond powder 50g
Flour 170g
Pinch of salt.

For Almond cream

Butter 100g
Caster sugar 100g
Egg 2
Almond powder 100g
Vanilla aroma
Pinch of flour.

DECORATION

12 prunes
1 orange
2 pears
6 slices pineapple
1 banana
1 peach
10 cherries in syrup
(any other fruits can be used)
abricot jam.

Preparation:

1. Sugar paste

Make a ball in the flour and place the sugar, salt, butter and egg at the center. Mix the four latter ingredients together well, then gradually draw in the flour and working the paste constantly.

2. Almond cream

Place the butter, egg yolk, sugar and softened butter in a bowl and whisk, then add gradually almond powder, vanilla, aroma and a pinch of flour.

3. Cooking

Butter the bottom of your mould. Pin out the paste to a round shape. Brush off excess of flour used to pin out your paste. Place the paste in the mould and perforate the paste with a fork so that it does not come up while baking. Pour almond cream on the paste and cook in over 150° (No. 5) for about one hour.

4. Decoration

Decorate with 7 different fruits (whole or sliced according to their size). Coat with abricot jam. (abricot jam should be first diluted with water at a moderate temperature).

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Australian bushfires continue raging as death toll rises to 69

SYDNEY, Australia, Feb. 17 (Agencies) — Firefighters battled for a second day Thursday to control raging bushfires in southeast Australia which killed at least 69 persons and was expected to become the worst in the nation's history.

With 46 dead in Victoria and 23 in south Australia, police expect the toll could surpass Australia's worst bushfire in 1931 which killed 71 persons. Officials said more than 8,000 persons have been left homeless by the fire.

But the death toll continued to rise almost hourly Thursday as firefighters and rescue workers searched for victims. Late Thursday, firefighters battled new outbreaks of fire in the hills around Melbourne.

Officials said the fires shot flames 300 feet through pine plantations and eucalyptus forest with such force that fully grown pine trees snapped like match sticks.

"The roar of the wind and the flames were horrific, it was like a train," said Mrs. Alanor Gray, whose store in Macedon was destroyed.

Victorian state Premier John Cain told newsmen after a tour of the devastated southeast corner of the state that 36 persons had perished in the holocaust which swept the parched countryside late Wednesday afternoon and burned on through the night. He

had earlier put the death toll in his state at 57 dead and the national total at 80 dead.

Police in neighboring south Australia confirmed 23 persons had died there and seven were missing, presumed dead. Cain said more than 2,000 homes had been lost in Victoria alone. Many thousands were homeless.

Rescuers searched the wreckage of seven towns destroyed by the blaze as firefighters battled to quell fires still raging out of control, some as close as 40 kilometers to Melbourne, the Victorian capital and second largest city in Australia.

The fires have blackened vast areas of parched, drought-stricken country in the 805 kilometers between Melbourne and Adelaide.

The victims included 12 firefighters who were incinerated in two trucks and a family of five burned to death in their car.

A woman from the Adelaide hills, on the outskirts of Adelaide, said she and her family survived by lying down in the middle of the road as the bush fires swept past.

Mrs. Coleen Trotter said four of her neighbors were burned to death. "My husband tried to help one neighbor," she said. "He grabbed him but the flesh just came off his arms. He died on the way to hospital."

A man and his girlfriend tried to shelter in a

storm drain but they died when the flames leaping across roads at 80 kilometers an hour, devastated the township, police said.

More than 100 children survived the fires by huddling under wet towels in a kindergarten while their parents played hoses on the encroaching flames from the roof. Officials said nearly 1,000 persons received injuries, mostly burns, while thousands of people who lost their homes were being put up in town halls or schools.

Police said many people straddled the roofs of their houses trying to douse the flames but, with water pressure low because of the drought, were forced to flee as the buildings caught fire. Farmers who abandoned their farms to the flames let their livestock out of barns but many thousands of sheep and cattle were believed to have perished.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser flew over the devastated regions Thursday to assess the damage, estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Police said they were investigating reports that some of the fires were lit deliberately. One man questioned earlier Thursday about a fire near Melbourne was later released, they added.



MISSILE CHESS: A float from the Mainz Rose, West Germany, carnival parade showing — according to those who built it — Soviet party leader Yuri Andropov (left) and U.S. President Ronald Reagan playing chess with missiles. The inscription reads: "A long game."

9 Poles jailed for sly radio broadcasts

WARSAW, Feb. 17 (R) — The leader of a group of underground activists who established the clandestine radio Solidarity during the martial law period, Zbigniew Romaszewski, was sentenced to four and a half years in prison Thursday by a military court.

Official sources who attended the closed trial said his wife, Zofia Romaszewska, an announcer on the radio station, was given three years. They said seven others involved received sentences from seven months to two and a half years, some suspended.

Romaszewski, a long-time civil rights campaigner who helped establish the worker's defense committee (KOR), dissident movement in the 1970s, was a senior official of the independent Solidarity union before its closure under martial law.

Radio Solidarity broadcast more than a dozen programs encouraging opposition to the military authorities and giving information about demonstrations and persons arrested between April and August last year.

It used taped messages attached to often crude transmitters placed in high buildings in the capital and was usually jammed by the authorities. Clandestine radios also operated in other cities including Wroclaw and Poznan.

Romaszewski, 43, was a member of the national commission of Solidarity which was dissolved by an act of parliament last October. He was the third prominent underground organizer to be caught and sentenced. Two leaders of the industrial city of Wroclaw, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Piotr Bednarek, who served on the underground's national coordinating committee, received terms of eight and four years respectively last autumn.

Five of Romaszewski's former colleagues in KOR, including top spokesman Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik, are under arrest on charges of trying to overthrow the state by force.

Thailand releases Americans on bail

BANGKOK, Feb. 17 (R) — Two Americans arrested at the weekend in northern Thailand and suspected of being linked to an abortive attempt to find missing American servicemen alleged to be held in Laos have been freed on bail, police said Thursday.

Police in the northern town of Nakhon Phanom said the two were released on bail of 150,000 baht (\$7,000) posted by an unidentified Thai national.

Lance Edward Trimmer, 43, of San Francisco and Lynne Standerwick, 25, of New Mexico, were arrested after police raided their house on the banks of the Mekong River last Sunday. The pair, who face charges of illegal possession of radio receivers, must stay in Thailand until their case is settled, police said. They were still in Nakhon Phanom.

Police have said they suspect the two were connected with a Hollywood-financed attempt by Mercenary James (Bo) Gritz last November to find missing American servicemen, but they had no firm evidence of the link.

Police found gas masks, camouflage fatigues, scuba diving equipment and three radio receivers in the Americans' house in Nakhon Phanom, from where, according to Thai newspaper reports, Gritz launched his abortive raid into Laos.

The Bangkok Post said Wednesday that Miss Standerwick was the daughter of an American Air Force pilot, Lt. Col. Robert Standerwick, whose plane was shot down over Laos in 1971. U.S. records showed that a pilot by that name was missing and presumed dead in Laos but did not indicate whether Lynne Standerwick was his daughter, U.S. sources said.

About 2,500 U.S. servicemen are still listed as missing in Indochina, but the Communist governments there have said they are not holding any American prisoners.

Soviet charged in Rome

ROME, Feb. 17 (AP) — A Soviet airline official and a top executive of an Italian microfilm company were formally charged with espionage, the Italian news agency Ansa said.

The agency said Victor Pronine, the 46-year-old deputy head of the local AeroPost station, was charged with political-military espionage after a high-level official of a Genoa-based microfilm firm had reportedly admitted maintaining links with Soviet agents.

Pronine and the microfilm executive, 33-year-old Azelio Negrino, were arrested here on Monday amid reports that they were trying to obtain NATO deployment plans.

Ansa said Pronine refused to respond to investigators after a brief meeting with two unidentified officials of the Soviet consulate who visited him at Rome's Regina Coeli Prison Wednesday night.

Italian magistrate Domenico Sica, who is leading the investigation, then formally announced he was filing charges against the Soviet, the report said.

The Soviet Embassy, which on Tuesday

described Pronine's arrest as "an uproar without precedent" and "unmotivated," had no immediate reaction. An embassy employee reached by telephone refused to discuss the report saying "the embassy is closed. Call tomorrow."

According to Ansa, Pronine's defense lawyers told Sica their client was not protected by diplomatic immunity.

Ansa said Negrino, 33, was being held at the Rebibbia Prison on charges of political-military espionage. The agency said Negrino reportedly told investigators he first got in touch with agents of the Soviet intelligence agency KGB about a year ago.

According to Ansa, Negrino had allegedly admitted he was offered large amounts of money in exchange of microfilmed documents handled by his office in Genoa.

Italian newspapers have said Negrino and Pronine were nabbed as the Soviet was to pick up microfilmed plans of NATO installations in northern Italy. Ansa said investigators seized "huge" quantities of documents in Negrino's hotel room in Rome.

Queen Elizabeth sends message

LONDON, Feb. 17 (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Thursday expressed shock at the "sad toll" in lives and property of the Australian bushfires.

She said, in a telegram to the Australian governor general: "I have been shocked and distressed by the news of the cruel bushfires in Victoria and south Australia and of the sad toll in human lives and destruction of property."

The Queen added in the message, released by Buckingham Palace: "Please convey deepest sympathy from Prince Philip and myself to the relatives of those who have died, to the injured and to those who have suffered the grievous loss of homes and possessions."

Mrs. Thatcher has sent a message of sympathy to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser telling him that he need only ask for aid that Britain can offer and it will be provided.

Diana's visit protested

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb. 17 (AP) — A letter bomb went off at Glasgow city hall Thursday and a Scottish separatist group said the device was a protest of Princess Diana's visit to the city, planned for later in the day.

No one was injured when the incendiary device ignited as mail was being opened at the city chambers building on George Square, said Inspector Mike Dean of Strathclyde Police.

There was no indication the incident was linked to a spate of letter bombs in Britain this week attributed to animal rights extremists.

Micvael Kelly, Glasgow's lord provost or ceremonial mayor, to whom the device was addressed, said the package "started to burn" immediately after his secretary opened it.

"It didn't explode," Kelly said. "He dropped

it immediately and managed to stamp out the flames, which just caused a little damage to the carpet."

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said its Glasgow offices received a letter from the Scottish National Liberation Army claiming responsibility.

The news agency said the hand-printed letter, postmarked Wednesday, read: "SNLA claim for attack in Glasgow today 17th Feb. as protest at Lady D's visit. More attacks to follow."

Diana, 21-year-old wife and heir to the throne Prince Charles, was to visit the Royal Hospital for sick children in Glasgow's Yorkhill district before crossing to the east of the city and visiting the Easterhouse apartment complex. There were no plans for her to visit city hall.

Vogel reserves missile right

BONN, Feb. 17 (R) — The West German opposition candidate for chancellor, Hans-Jochen Vogel, said Thursday there would be no automatic deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in his country if he won the March 6 general election.

Vogel had been asked to comment on remarks by President Reagan who said at a news conference Wednesday that U.S. nuclear strategy would receive a terrible setback if West Germans elected a government opposed to such deployment. "President Reagan represents American interests and I represent German interests," Vogel told a press conference.

He said he stood by his policy that disarmament negotiations in Geneva must lead to an agreement under which there would be sufficient dismantling of Soviet medium-range rockets to make deployment of U.S. missiles unnecessary.

He emphasized that both the United States and the Soviet Union must move from their original negotiating positions. If they did not, this would have a significant impact on his

attitude toward the deployment of U.S. Pershing and Cruise missiles in West Germany, he said. "There will be no automatic deployment," he added.

Vogel, a Social Democrat, said that following the recent European tour by Vice President George Bush, he thought Washington had a number of ideas on disarmament, but that they would not emerge until after the March 6 poll. He welcomed President Reagan's declaration that he had no intention of trying to influence the outcome of the elections.

Vogel said he supported the position of former Social Democratic Chancellor Helmut Schmidt who has said U.S. missiles could be stationed in West Germany, if the Soviet Union remained intransigent and if, despite the greatest U.S. efforts, the Geneva talks produced no agreement.

At the Social Democratic election congress in Dortmund last month, Vogel welcomed new Soviet disarmament initiatives and said the United States must make constructive counterproposals.

Fresh killings mark Assam polling

NEW DELHI, Feb. 17 (AP) — Fresh reports of police killings and high tensions marked the start Thursday of the second stage of voting in the violence-ridden state election in Assam, northeast India.

State police shot dead five Central Reserve policemen sent into Assam to maintain order and wounded a sixth during Wednesday's shootout finally halted by top commanders using loudspeakers and backed by Indian Army troops, the United News of India reported. The police death toll was earlier reported as three.

A mob killed another Central Police reservist Thursday at the Assamese town of Chabua. UN reported, and nine Assamese

state police were wounded in the Wednesday exchange of fire with central police at Goalpatra, 450 kilometers northeast of Calcutta.

An estimated 70,000 paramilitary central police troops have been sent into Assam to back up local police during the election, ordered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi over protests of native Assamese demanding expulsion of outside settlers.

The two police forces finally surrendered their arms at noon Thursday, more than 24 hours after the trouble started, an official report said.

With the election less than half completed, the unofficial toll in 16 days of civil upheaval was more than 300 dead.

Capital punishment is banned under any circumstances. Under the old constitution the death penalty could be imposed only for war crimes. Another change is that the first chamber (upper house) of parliament will in future be elected every four years instead of every six years, with half of the 75 members retiring every three years.

Hague grants voting rights to aliens

THE HAGUE, Feb. 17 (R) — A new constitution came into force in the Netherlands Thursday giving voting rights to foreign residents in local elections.

It also allows foreign residents to stand as candidates in local elections. But they are not allowed to participate in elections for the 150-seat second chamber of parliament. The new constitution lays down a series of basic social rights, including the right to public

assistance and health care.

Capital punishment is banned under any circumstances. Under the old constitution the death penalty could be imposed only for war crimes. Another change is that the first chamber (upper house) of parliament will in future be elected every four years instead of every six years, with half of the 75 members retiring every three years.

Oscar favorites

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17 (AP) — *Gandhi*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Tootsie*, *The Verdict* and *Splash* were among the leading contenders for Thursday's 55th Oscar nominations.

The probable nominees for best actress included: Meryl Streep, Jessica Lange, Sigourney Weaver and Julie Andrews. For best actor: Ben Kingsley, Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman and Peter O'Toole.

A record 245 new people were expected to attend the brief ceremony at the Beverly Hills headquarters of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Academy President Fay Kanin and Karl Malden, best supporting actor of 1951 for *A Streetcar Named Desire*, was to read the nominees.

The Oscar will be presented April 11 at the Los Angeles Music Center.

| GLOBAL WEATHER | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|-----|--------|---|--|
| | Min | Max | | Min | Max | | |
| | C | F | C | C | F | C | |
| Amsterdam | -3 | 27 | 1 | 34 | clear | | |
| Athens | 6 | 43 | 8 | 46 | cloudy | | |
| Bahrein | 15 | 59 | 22 | 72 | cloudy | | |
| Bangkok | 25 | 77 | 34 | 93 | cloudy | | |
| Beirut | 9 | 48 | 16 | 61 | rain | | |
| Berlin | 5 | 41 | 2 | 36 | cloudy | | |
| Brussels | -4 | 25 | 1 | 34 | clear | | |
| Buenos Aires | 15 | 59 | 27 | 81 | clear | | |
| Cairo | 15 | 59 | 24 | 75 | cloudy | | |
| Caracas | 16 | 61 | 30 | 86 | clear | | |
| Chicago | 5 | 41 | 19 | 66 | clear | | |
| Dublin | 1 | 34 | 3 | 37 | snow | | |
| Frankfurt | -9 | 16 | 0 | 32 | clear | | |
| Geneva | -3 | 27 | -1 | 30 | cloudy | | |
| Helsinki | -7 | 19 | -2 | 28 | clear | | |
| Hong Kong | 12 | 54 | 19 | 66 | clear | | |
| Jakarta | 24 | 75 | 32 | 90 | rain | | |
| Kuala Lumpur | 24 | 75 | 33 | 91 | rain | | |
| London | -1 | 30 | 5 | 41 | cloudy | | |
| Los Angeles | 11 | 52 | 17 | 63 | clear | | |
| Madrid | -8 | 18 | 7 | 45 | clear | | |
| Manila | 21 | 70 | 33 | 91 | clear | | |
| Mexico City | 6 | 43 | 22 | 72 | clear | | |
| Miami | 17 | 63 | 23 | 73 | rain | | |
| Montreal | -6 | 21 | 3 | 37 | cloudy | | |
| Moscow | -9 | 16 | -4 | 25 | cloudy | | |
| New Delhi | 13 | 55 | 24 | 75 | cloudy | | |
| New York | 2 | 36 | 7 | 45 | rain | | |
| Nicosia | 9 | 48 | 16 | 61 | clear | | |
| Oslo | -8 | 18 | 3 | 37 | clear | | |
| Paris | -3 | 27 | 4 | 39 | clear | | |
| Peking | -10 | 14 | -1 | 30 | clear | | |
| Rio de Janeiro | 21 | 70 | 39 | 102 | clear | | |
| Rome | 4 | 39 | 9 | 48 | cloudy | | |
| San Francisco | 10 | 50 | 17 | 63 | cloudy | | |
| Seoul | 0 | 32 | 4 | 39 | cloudy | | |
| Stockholm | 24 | 77 | 34 | 93 | clear | | |
| Sydney | -3 | 27 | 3 | 37 | cloudy | | |
| Taipei | 13 | 55 | 19 | 66 | cloudy | | |
| Tokyo | 1 | 34 | 7 | 45 | snow | | |
| Toronto | 2 | 36 | 5 | 41 | cloudy | | |
| Vancouver | 2 | 36 | 10 | 50 | cloudy | | |
| Vienne | -11 | 12 | -1 | 30 | clear | | |

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America
tionship of friendship," the Libyan news agency Jana quoted Qaddafi as saying.

"The Libyan people are ready to fight to defend their land, their water and skies," Qaddafi told the General People's Congress. Libya's legislative body.

Troops withdrawal
say how many troops should be withdrawn, or to give any further details of the proposal, but said these would be made public later.

A NATO spokesman said the proposal would be given due consideration, but declined to comment on its contents.

The Vienna negotiations, on thinning out some two million troops facing each other in the world's largest concentration of opposing armed forces, are stalled by dispute over present manpower strengths, and ways of monitoring an accord. Rival draft pacts for troop reductions tabled by each side last year have far failed to overcome the stalemate.

Soviet proposal
interested in the full test ban despite the fact that 124 states at last December's General Assembly voted for a resolution urging the committee to draw up such a treaty this year.

"How many decades, maybe centuries, are needed in order to finally achieve an agreement on this question, satisfying the Pentagon and U.S. nuclear laboratories?" he asked.

Israeliyan repeated a Soviet proposal, pas-

sed by 115 votes in the General Assembly, for a moratorium on all nuclear explosions during the time needed to negotiate a full test ban.

The four other nuclear powers — the United States, Britain, France and China — were the only states to vote against this, he said.

While the completed treaty waited for 20 states to ratify it, he added, the three main powers negotiating the ban — the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union — could agree among themselves to honor it.